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47th
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL ISSUE

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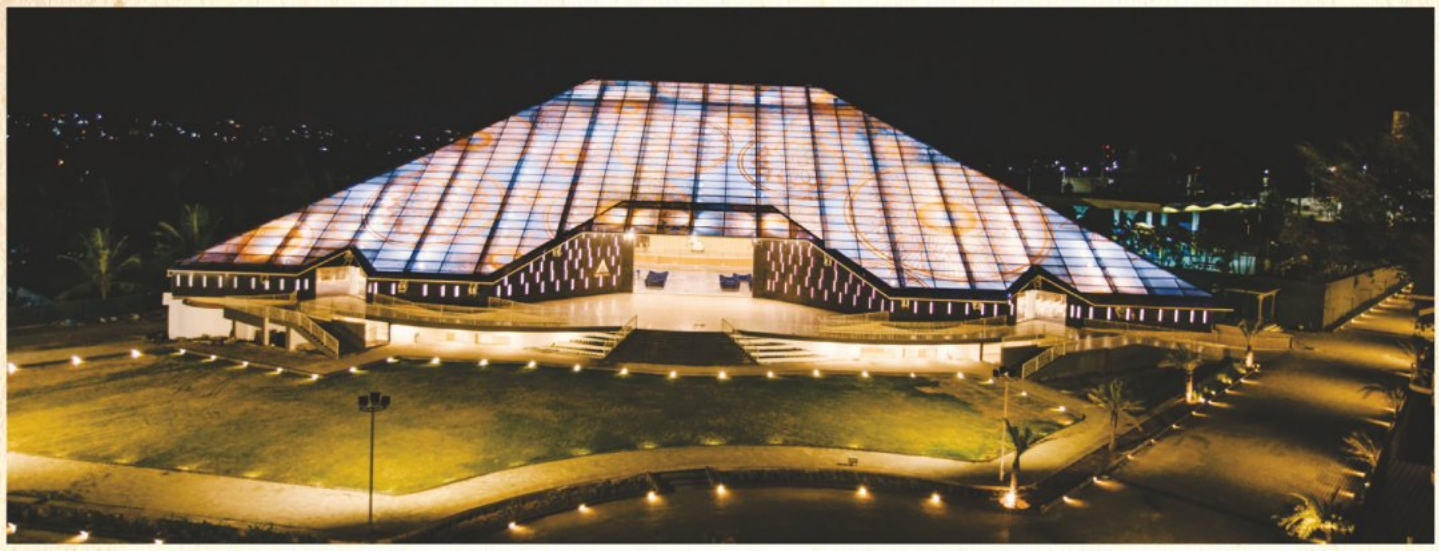

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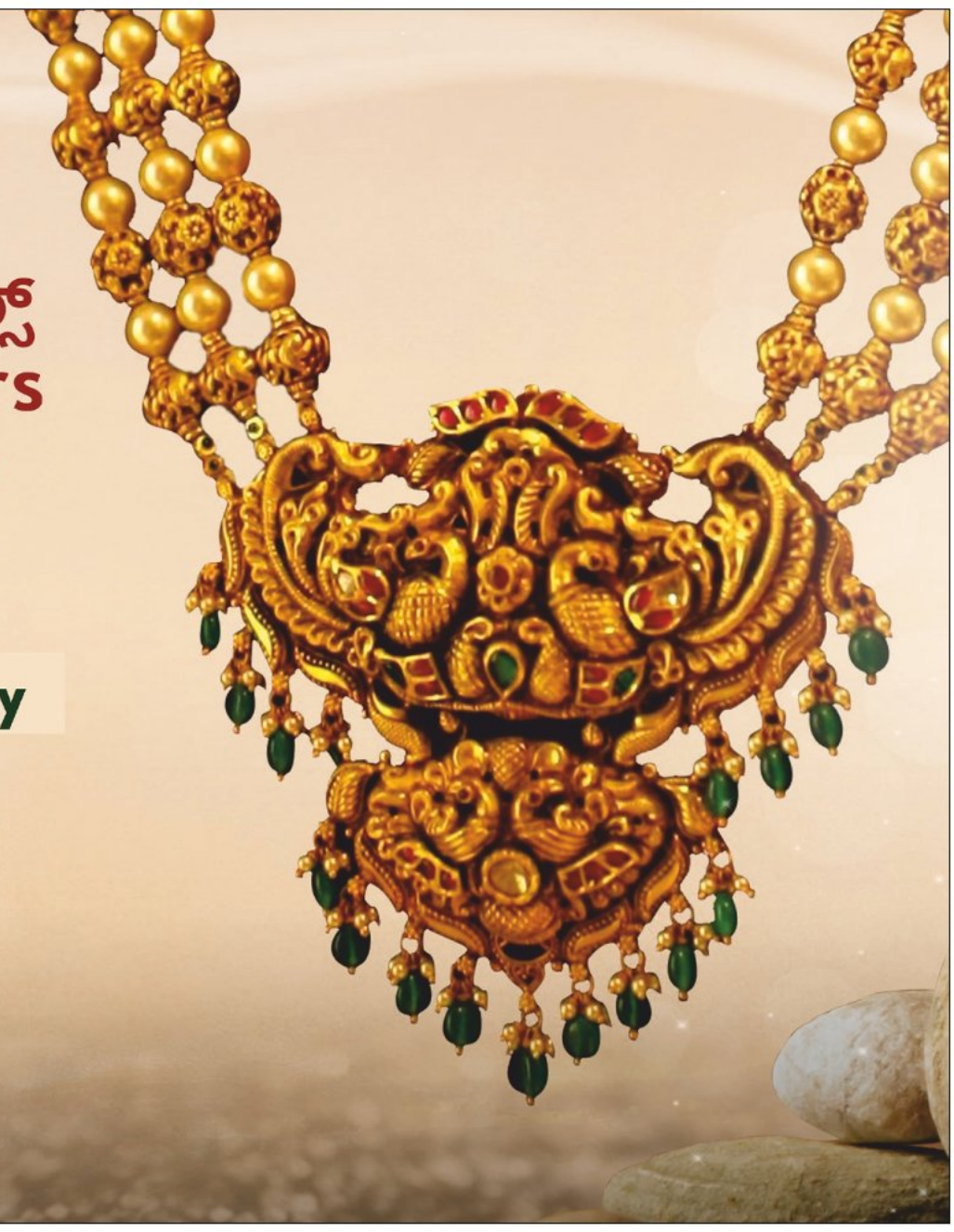

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"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Friday 16th February 2024

Thank You

It was this day, nay this very evening, 46 years ago that STAR OF MYSORE was born in this city as an Evening English Newspaper. Happily it continues to be your favourite eveninger.

From this evening, we will be entering 47th year of publication. And as we do so, we gratefully remember all those who made it possible to reach this milestone and salute them with gratitude and humility.

Bringing out a special issue on our anniversary has been a tradition with us ever since the beginning of this newspaper. We are specially beholden to our readers and advertisers for their unstinting support in making this possible.

We have been following all along an independent editorial policy without aligning ourselves with any political party, community, group, ideology or vested interest and this policy will continue. Our first editorial titled *"A Star Is Born"* which is printed alongside, declares this policy more eloquently.

As a newspaper, we strongly believe our survival depends solely on our usefulness to the society and on the service we render to our readers and advertisers. Which is why we take up just causes and important issues in a crusading spirit to protect readers' interest while widening our readership base. And advertisers get VALUE for their money. After all, it is the credibility of STAR OF MYSORE as a brand and its pulling-power that should matter to our advertisers rather than the cost of advertising.

On this occasion, we also remember the truth that change is a constant in any organisation that wishes to grow — not just survive. And we are bracing ourselves for an array of changes from pre-press to printing technology. All this to ensure continuation of your addiction to STAR OF MYSORE — for all the news of *Namma Cheluva Mysuru* and more. We have experienced contributors who provide expert views on issues current and of common interest.

Welcome. Sit back, relax, make yourself a nice cuppa and experience your reading pleasure every evening.

And finally a big "Thank You" — to our subscribers, advertisers, contributors, our staff, our agents and paper delivery boys who together have teamed up to make STAR OF MYSORE a success story among evening newspapers in India. A very good evening to You.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

"I will now briefly outline our objectives for next year — We gotta make more money."

NEWS SPARKLERS

Hubby forgets anniversary, bashed up!

Mumbai: A 27-year-old Ghatkopar resident, along with her brother and parents, bashed up her husband and his mother after the man failed to wish her on their wedding anniversary.

Police said that the woman called her parents and brother to her matrimonial home after her husband forgot about their wedding anniversary. After her brother and parents reached her home, the four of them assaulted her husband, his mother, and also damaged his vehicle. Nangre alleged that his wife got angry on February 18, as he forgot their wedding anniversary due to which Kalpana had fought with him. Police have booked all the 4 accused.

Lost dog found 950 kms away after 4 years

Calhan: A dog that went missing from a family friend's Colorado home in 2020 turned up four years later at the Mexican border nearly 950 kms away. Benjamin Baxter was 13 years old when he brought home a 6-week-old puppy named Patches, but in 2020 he had to move to Nebraska for a new job and his new rental home did not allow dogs.

Patches stayed with a family friend in Calhan, Colo., while Baxter searched for a new home that would allow his pet, but she had only been staying with the friend for a couple of months when she escaped.

Baxter's wife received a call on Jan. 31 from his mother, who said she had been receiving calls about Patches being found in Las Cruces. Baxter contacted the shelter and indeed found his long-lost furry friend.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Blood in stools is one of the common symptoms of rectal cancer and occurs early in the disease and should not be ignored.

By Dr. Vasudeva Pai H - Consultant - Surgical Gastroenterology
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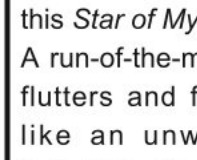

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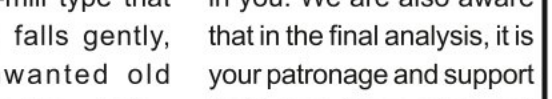

Best wishes to STAR OF MYSORE on the occasion of 47th year publication

A Star Is Born

In an age where birth of a nation is a minor event, birth of a child is a curse, the birth of a newspaper is bound to be a non-event. More so when its founders and the Editor are from among the common men with no past of any distinction. Which is why there was no ceremonial inauguration of the publication of *Star of Mysore* or any promotional campaign.

It is natural, our readers may want to know what manner of a newspaper this *Star of Mysore* will be. A run-of-the-mill type that flutters and falls gently, like an unwanted old leaf, through the window into your drawing room every evening or the one that will interest you to welcome home and read with pleasure.

Yes, the *Star of Mysore* is conceived and produced to belong to the latter category.

This is a local paper and as such we are more interested in what is happening in our immediate surroundings rather than in the distant Delhi everyday.

Our investigative reporter will sneak into the Municipal Council Hall, go nosing around University campus, walk footloose along the Police beat, amble into the hospitals and slink under the seat of power to publish in cold print all that you always wanted to know but could not. Now a STAR is born to fulfil that need.

We, the publishers, reporters and the Editor are aware of our responsibility to our readers. And it is our hope that we will be able to find a responsive readership in you. We are also aware that in the final analysis, it is your patronage and support (both from the readers and the advertisers) that will sustain us in our noble goals and work-a-day life.

The best cannot come in the beginning. We have many constraints. We are improving now and will improve as days pass by. You will soon find better headline types, brighter layout and excellent printing. We are trying. The Star must shine.

[16.2.1978]

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Boss: *How many years you worked here?* ***Worker:*** *50 years sir.*
Boss: *How can you be 40 and work for 50?* ***Worker:*** *Overtime!!*

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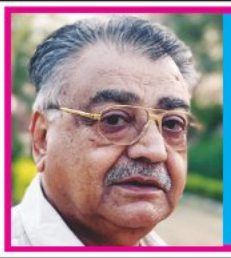

Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Viva Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Defender of Faith and Renaissance Man of India

The 2024 Parliamentary election is only a couple of months away. Looking back, in the last 10 years, it has been a golden decade for India. The credit should indeed go to BJP Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi. I am sure this kind of approbation of Modi's rule will ruffle the feathers of BJP's *bete noire,* the Left liberal members of the Opposition.

But, let me begin with a parable told by Kahlil Gibran as my answer to those who ruled us after independence from 1947 to 2014 before Narendra Modi arrived as Prime Minister.

One nightfall, a man travelling on a horseback towards the sea, reached an Inn on the roadside. He dismounted and confident in man and night, he tied his horse to a tree beside the door and entered the Inn.

At midnight, when all were asleep, a thief came and stole the traveller's horse.

In the morning, the man awoke and discovered that his horse was stolen and grieved for his horse. Then his fellow lodgers came and stood around him and began to talk.

And the first man said, "How foolish of you to tie your horse outside the stable."

And the second man said, "Still more foolish, without strapping together the legs of the horse."

And the third man said, "It is stupid at best to travel to the sea on a horseback."

And the fourth man said, "Only the lazy and the slow on foot own horses."

Naturally, the traveller, who was the victim of theft, was much astonished at the remarks and comments of other lodgers. At last, he cried, "My friends, because my horse is stolen, you have hastened to tell me my faults and my shortcomings. But strange, not one word of reproach have you uttered about the man who stole my horse."

In the above parable, imagine the traveller to be the Rajas of different countries within Hindu India in the beginning of the 10th century ACE. The horse that was stolen to be their kingdoms. The lodgers of the Inn to be the Left liberals and those who ruled us from 1947 to 2014 after we got independence in 1947. As an Indian, specially if you are a Hindu, what would be your feeling? Same as that of the victim — traveller in the parable.

These Left liberals are the ruling parties of India who *found fault* with the Hindu kings and Hindu people of this country for losing the war against foreign conquerors. Strangely, not one word of *reproach* has been uttered by the Left liberals and the ruling parties about the foreign invaders who *stole* the kingdoms of these Hindu kings.

The **rulers of independent India** compromised the evils perpetrated to the *virasat* (heritage) of Hindus and did not enable Hindus to reclaim their important temples that were destroyed by the Muslim invaders.

Be that as it may, after independence the Hindus had one golden opportunity to reclaim their lost heritage with regard to their temples, names given to the old Hindu kingdoms, important places and roads. So also with regard to the British and Persian names that are in the land records. There is Moghul and Colonial influence in criminal and civil laws that was crying for change to affirm the fact that India is an independent, sovereign country with a Hindu majority.

Unfortunately, it did not happen for several decades because the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who ruled for more than 16 years did not countenance efforts of the victims of destroyed temples to reclaim them for reasons best known to him.

The **rulers of independent India** considered the majority Hindus of the country as a burden on the minority and its impact was seen in the government's discriminatory policy on education, temple management and criminal and civil laws.

It is axiomatic that the British India was divided in 1947 on the **communal political principle** of Hindu majority and Muslim majority provinces. The majority Hindus of truncated India believed that they could reclaim their *virasat* (heritage) and then pursue the path of *vikas* (development) once the Muslims were granted their demand for Pakistan.

Surprisingly, the Congress leaders who became the rulers of divided India could not influence or convince Nehru to be considerate towards the **aspirations** of Hindus. It is now revealed that such attitude by the then rulers in dealing with the **Hindu question** after independence had a political purpose (Remember there was a 'Muslim question' before independence!). It was a **hidden vote bank agenda** of the ruling Congress party and **there being no strong Opposition party, there was no one to speak for Hindus.**

Defeated, denied, oppressed and even humiliated in a gradual manner for over thousand years, it was but natural for the Hindus to reclaim their lost inheritance and heritage when they got freedom.

However, due to the electoral politics played on the hidden rules of caste, creed, religion and also money, the Hindu majority continued to languish without seeing the new age of renaissance and resurgence.

Fortunately, by sheer serendipity, in 2014 Parliamentary election a miracle happened both for India and for Hindus. The BJP with NDA partners got an absolute majority in the Parliament and also a Prime Minister Narendra Modi like an *avatar* mentioned in *Bhagavad Gita*. This helped in reclaiming Hindu *virasat* and boosting India's economic growth which took a quantum leap that many thought would be impossible. And the man who made this impossible possible is our Prime Minister Modi.

Though the going is good for the country and its people, both the majority and the minority, it is important to pause and ponder about our democracy and its healthy growth. Presently, the political ethos across the country is eclipsed by a disparate Opposition bereft of political ideology anchored by a weak and fatigued Congress party.

The Opposition seems to suffer not only from a policy paralysis but also from a leadership crisis. Fortunately for the country, the BJP does not suffer from these two major deficiencies and therein lies its strength for now.

In a matured democracy, there must be a strong Opposition in the Parliament. It is for this reason, the Prime Minister too had expressed his desire in the Rajya Sabha for a good constructive Opposition in the Parliament.

Fortunately, the forthcoming 2024 election does not seem to be complicated or complex. Therefore, we can expect a healthy mix of the Ruling and the Opposition parties in the new Parliament functioning from the new Parliament House.

In the midst of all this, we hear a discordant note coming from an MP from Karnataka D.K. Suresh sowing the seed of another partition of the country as North and South for the frivolous alleged reason of the Centre not giving Karnataka its share of tax. The PM was much upset about the MP's threat and said in Rajya Sabha, *"What is this language being spoken? Stop creating such new narratives to break the nation."*

Hearing the utterances of some of our politicians from across the political parties, it seems necessary for them to read the history of India — ancient, modern and the present. Only then they will know how India was conquered and ruled by foreign invaders and traders. Only then they will know how important it is for India to stay united and thereby stay strong so that history will not repeat itself.

Reflecting on the statements made by Congress MP D.K. Suresh and some DMK leaders about our country's unity, I am reminded of what Dr. B.R. Ambedkar said in Bombay in early fifties at a public meeting when the then Chief Minister of Bombay B.G. Kher concluded his speech saying, **"I am an Indian first and Maharashtrian last."**

When Dr. Ambedkar's turn came to speak, he alluded to Kher's concluding remark and said, **"We should always think we are Indians first and Indians last."**

Let us hope our present day ambitious and parochial politicians will hear Dr. Ambedkar's advice and think themselves as Indians first and Indians last. Dr. Ambedkar also said in another context, **"If India loses who wins."**

History of the world tells us that at all times and circumstances, war, peace, famine or pestilence, as the Leader so is the Country. When you have a GOOD LEADER, keep him.

Jai Hind.

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LS polls: No ticket for most State MPs ?

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (BLU&BCT)- In a significant development within Karnataka's political arena, reliable sources have disclosed that approximately half of BJP MPs across the party's 25 Lok Sabha Constituencies are set to be denied tickets for the upcoming Parliamentary elections.

Key figures within the party's top echelons, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP National President J.P. Nadda, have been meticulously evaluating incumbent MPs' performance, public perception, age and various political considerations.

This scrutiny aims to optimise the party's chances by fielding more promising candidates. Notably, confidential assessments and surveys conducted across Karnataka's 28 seats by the BJP central leadership have been pivotal in this decision-making process. However, specific details regarding the conductors and methodologies of these assessments remain a secret.

The survey reports suggest that several incumbent MPs deemed inactive in developmental initiatives, ageing or embroiled in political controversies may face ticket denials. This strategic move underscores the party's commitment to nurturing second-tier leadership.

Over the past half-decade, four MPs from Karnataka have failed to raise a single question in the Lok Sabha, with some exhibiting minimal attendance during Sessions, while others have courted controversy with their statements, inviting public scrutiny. Additionally, the advancing age of certain MPs has led to the decision to refrain from offering them tickets.

Additionally, notable political figures, including Chamarajanagar MP V. Sreenivasa Prasad, Chikkaballapur MP B.N. Bachegowda, Bangalore North's D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Davangere MP G.M. Siddeshwar and Haveri-Gadag MP M. Shivakumar C. Udasi, have declared their political retirements.

Excluding these five individuals, reports indicate that the BJP central leadership aims to field fresh faces in majority of the remaining 20 seats to secure victories. Reflecting on past electoral setbacks during Assembly polls, where BJP faced challenges due to similar ticket allocation practices, party is cautious.

Currently, Congress is grappling with stiff competition, relying on guarantee schemes and an extensive publicity campaign to maximise electoral gains. In response, BJP has devised a comprehensive strategy, incorporating JD(S) into its master plan. Leveraging insights from Constituency review reports, the BJP has curated a tentative list of candidates, pending finalisation after seat-sharing negotiations with the JD(S).

Should BJP maintain its strongholds in the 25 seats it previously secured, the electoral landscape will likely witness a showdown between BJP-JD(S) alliance and Congress that is in power in the State.

Anniversary Special Issue

INSIDE ARTICLES

- KBG's Abracadabra Viva PM Narendra Modi 08
- In Black & White by Vikram Muthanna 18
- Interview of Balak Ram sculptor Arun Yogiraj 22
- Rama Mandiras of Mysore by Maya Sitaram 52
- Over a Cup of Evening Tea by Dr. Javeed Nayeem 53
- Interview of Digital Artist 54
- A Baker's Journey 55
- The grand wedding of 1950 in Mysore 59
- Boom: A gunner's story 60

NOTE: Due to pressure on space, some articles sent by our readers could not be published in this issue. They will be published soon. **—Ed**

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VOICE OF THE READER

MCC must create exclusive Road Hump Cell

Sir,

The recent tragic loss of three innocent lives due to poorly designed and installed road humps should serve as a wake-up call for both the MCC and City Traffic Police. Numerous road humps can be observed across the city, each seemingly designed according to the whims and fancies of MCC engineers.

Despite repeated fatalities attributed to these poorly constructed humps, there seems to be a lack of centralised monitoring. Why hasn't the MCC established a dedicated unit specifically tasked with the design and installation of road humps?

Given the varied Zones under the MCC's jurisdiction and the differing requirements for road humps in various localities, it's apparent that current approaches often neglect important parameters. It's high time for the MCC to consider establishing a specialised cell responsible for the standardised design and installation of road humps, working closely with the Traffic Police and adhering strictly to the standards set forth by the Indian Roads Congress.

Road humps must be designed with the safety and convenience of drivers in mind. In my opinion, the scientific road hump located in front of the Mysuru Zilla Panchayat Office serves as a model for what should be implemented across Mysuru — a design that effectively slows down vehicles while ensuring driver comfort and safety.

—Vijay Hemmige
Vijayanagar Railway Layout
14.2.2024

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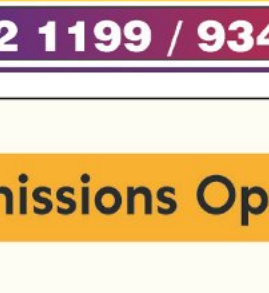

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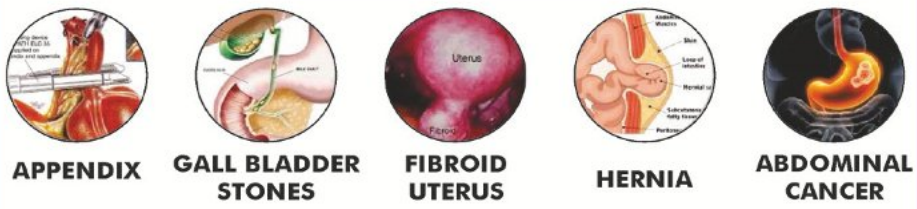

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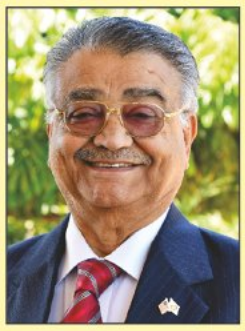

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Unveils its first clinic in the City of Palaces, Mysuru

16th Februay 2024: Having successfully launched its presence across cities in the south of India, Ms. Rajathi Kalimuthan, Associate Partner – SkinLab South launched her newest clinic now in Namma Mysuru.

Spread across an aesthetically created space of 3000 sq. ft, Dr. Jamuna Pai's SkinLab is situated at Temple Road, Vanivilasapuram, Mysuru. Crafted with utmost precision and care, the newly launched clinic boasts state of the art facilities that support its clients with high levels of medical proficiency and care. Offering a range of unique treatments and solutions, a few popular services include - laser hair reduction, medical grade facials, intense acne treatments, acne scar treatment, advanced skin brightening, professional peels, dermal fillers, skin tightening treatment, thread lift, bridal skin care, Plasma Glow Therapy, Plasma Growth Therapy, Coolsculpting and many more advanced related skincare solutions. Commenting on the new launch, Ms. Rajathi Kalimuthan, Associate Partner – SkinLab South, says,"*We are delighted to introduce yet another milestone to our journey with our latest clinic now in Mysuru. The best results are achieved only when each client is correctly assessed and the selected treatment is adjusted to suit that client. Our team is adept at creating protocols and modifying existing ones to specifically suit Indian skin types. This requires a thorough knowledge of the physiology of the skin as well as of the devices we use in our treatments. It is our aim to provide personalized and professional client care to everyone who walks through our doors. Apart from our exacting medical standards, we also pride ourselves in providing our clients with a private and comfortable experience, in a hygienic, relaxed and elegant environment.*"

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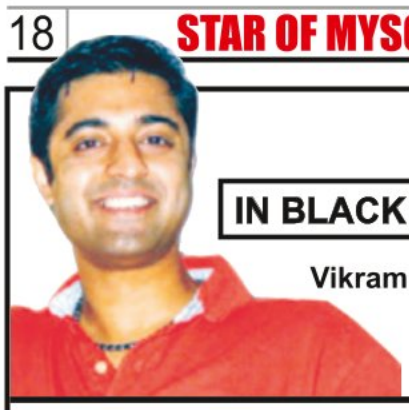

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Love & Loss in DIGITAL AGE

Two days ago, on Valentine's Day, I visited a cousin's house. There, I met my niece who was visiting home. She's typically effervescent and exuberant but on that day, she was veiled in an aura of melancholy. The cause? She had just broken up with her boyfriend of over a year.

She said they had met on a dating app and it all looked promising until it didn't. That's life. But what struck me was her poignant admission. My niece, typically possessed of steely resolve, confessed that the process of disentanglement had become an arduous task, despite the passage of several months.

After talking for a while, I found the reason why it was so hard for her to move on — because she was 'creeping.'

'Creeping' is basically stalking someone on social media such as following someone's Facebook, Instagram and 'X' pages. It was called 'stalking' in the early days, now it is called 'creeping' to give it a gentler connotation so as to disassociate it with criminal activity.

As I spoke to her, it got me thinking — finding love, keeping it, and getting over it has gotten harder in today's digital age because the internet never forgets, and social media doesn't allow you to forget.

Love often begins online these days and even after it's dead, it lingers on in cyberspace like a digital ghost in the form of an ex's 'Facebook story' that pops up unannounced to traumatise you.

Dating apps have changed the love and lust game. As I speak to users of dating apps, both young and old, both men and women, their approach to finding a partner has changed.

One doesn't need the once much-needed courage to break the ice — to walk up to someone you're attracted to and strike up a conversation.

Butterflies in the stomach have all but become extinct as you don't have to worry about charm, humour, or the ability to keep a conversation going. Now you just need a smartphone and a finger to break the ice.

Today's social media world has also sucked away the joy of discovery. The essence of serendipitous discovery has been eclipsed by social media.

It is so easy to digitally stalk a person that even before you meet them, you know what they do, where they live, what they like, where they have been and who their friends are. If they are an 'over-sharer' you will also know what they ate and if they had a good poop earlier in the day.

Maybe, that's why physical intimacy happens so much sooner than before. After all, you already know so much about each other, what else is left there to discover but the touch?

That's okay, but conversational discovery assists in 'quality check' and helps avoid that sense of 'regret' one sometimes experiences post-hasty coitus.

This ease and speed of interaction between sexes assumes a reckless tenor, fraught with perilous ramifications. The effect social media has on the healing process post a break-up is something that must be addressed. Especially among young people.

Before social media, if you broke up with someone, you never saw them again or heard from them. Some would hold on to love letters and maybe a few photos.

If it was a bad breakup, you would just burn them all, talk to your friends, spend time outdoors and eventually in a few months, you forget that person, heal quickly and properly. There was a sense of finality or closure to it all.

Now the ubiquity of social media platforms preserves a lifeline to an ex, perpetuating a cycle of longing and desolation.

If you are in a serious relationship, social media has almost made it impossible to achieve a level of indifference so as to heal fast enough and move forward.

Today, your ex is always somewhere in your mind-space because ever so often they are in your face as Facebook will tell you what's happening in their life. Though Facebook has a 'take a break feature' it's not very effective if your common friend posts updates.

The other issue is storage. Today with phone cameras and cheap memory space, we save every moment, every experience and every chat, no matter how banal.

It starts with WhatsApp, but it doesn't end there. Even after the relationship has ended, the shared pics, conversations and cute exchange of kissy emojis on WhatsApp will continue to lure you back, hindering your healing process.

One of the hardest parts of a break-up is accepting that it's over, but social media keeps us from this part of the process. Algorithms see black and white. But it doesn't see the grey where human emotions linger.

So, even if you have blocked an ex's news feeds, they will suddenly pop up to remind you of the happy times. Worse, a mutual friend's picture pops up showing them at your ex's wedding!

A broken heart is a wound, and as long as you keep sliding into a former lover's social media that wound will never heal.

As per a study conducted by Pew Research, a staggering 53 percent of social media users acknowledge resorting to these platforms to surveil their former flames. But the danger is, what may commence as a mere curiosity or a yearning of a broken heart for closure, soon metamorphoses into a maelstrom of emotional turmoil, precipitating feelings of solitude, ire, and betrayal.

In this new world of digital courtship, we all have to re-learn the way we love, the way we hurt and more importantly the way we heal. Youngsters need to know that this too shall pass... But if you don't digitally cleanse yourself for a while, it shall never come to pass.

The panacea for afflictions of the heart and mind often lies in communion with the natural world. For me, it has been the walk up Chamundi Hill, amidst the mellifluous melodies of Mynas and Seven Sisters. I hope my niece will join me so the therapeutic cadences of nature can assuage the afflictions of her young and tender heart.

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Promotional Feature

K.B. Lingaraju vows to support Industrial Development in city

K.B. Lingaraju, President of Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), who firmly believes that when industries grow at macro-level, unemployment could be eradicated.

He also feels that the government must provide adequate facilities to entrepreneurs. He is constantly working to that direction. He believes that small and medium scale industries are the pillars of the country. He emphasises that small industries should grow in line with large industries. He says that Mysuru is a very important district as far as industries are concerned.

He is bringing to the notice of the government and other concerned authorities about the availability of opportunities within the district for industrial development.

He is also constantly working for removal of bottlenecks pertaining to infrastructure. He is extending co-operation and also guiding new entrepreneurs.

After becoming the President of Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he has further extended his service areas, he says that crores of rupees in the form of taxes were being levied from Industrial Suburb, Bannimantap, Hebbal, Metagalli, Koorgalli, Belagola, Belavadi, Nanjangud and other industrial areas for providing infrastructure, but the development of these areas has become a nightmare.

He is constantly submitting memorandums to concerned Ministers, MLAs and officers for providing at least street lights, water, road, toilets etc., to these industrial areas which are lacking for the last several years. He says that the dream of setting up Mysuru Industrial Town Authority has not been made a reality even after two decades.

Industrial Town Authority for Mysuru

- In 2003, it was declared in the Gazette Notification about the setting up of but the same has not been executed till now.

Single tax system

- Double tax payment to the Municipality and KIADB has to be avoided and single tax payment should be introduced. If, Mysuru Industrial Town Authority is established, it will look after all such issues.

MCC provides facilities

- At least Rs. 50 crores should be earmarked for providing infrastructure facilities to Vishweshwaranagar, Bannimantap 'A' & 'B' Layouts and southern industrial areas. This amount should be released to the Mysore City Corporation (MCC) for taking up road, drainage and basic infrastructure facilities for the above mentioned areas.

Housing for workers

- Housing facilities should be provided to industrial workers at the industrial areas itself by making use of the central government schemes. Even for this, the Central government provide grants. The State government should carry out such labour oriented schemes through labour department, he opines.

More development if the government supports

- K.B. Lingaraju says that packaging industry is doing well in Mysuru and box, wire, tyre factories besides engineering industries, which are located in Hebbal, Metagalli, Yadavagiri, Koorgalli, Hootagalli were doing tremendous job.

Small and medium scale industries were supplying adequate quantity of these products to big industries and companies.

Likewise, women from Hunsur, H.D. Kote, Nanjangud, Kollegal, T. Narasipur and other places are coming to Mysuru industrial areas in search of jobs everyday. But, if opportunities were created at taluk level, these women job seekers need not come here and people would get jobs locally, he emphasised.

Prevent problems from banks

- He says that banks were troubling industries and that during COVID-19 pandemic most of the industries were badly hit, but somehow they were managing the show. Employees had been paid. But the lending banks were not giving enough time and even renewal was not done.

As such, Over Draft facility was not extended. Records relating to industries were not made available. The Lead Bank had been informed about this.

Allot space to entrepreneurs

- A letter had been written to KIADB about non availability of space to entrepreneurs since 2013.

An appeal in this regard was also made to the present Deputy Commissioner Dr. K.V. Rajendra who had positively responded.

After the inauguration of the 10 lane road, Mysuru could be reached from Bengaluru within 1.5 hours. As such, there was no problem for bringing raw materials from Bengaluru to Mysuru. Besides, air services, good railway connection with double track were also available which are helpful for industrial development.

He says at the same time, officers should work with willingness, commitment and dedication, he added and urged the authorities to provide all facilities.

- **K.B. Lingaraju is enthusiastic in providing support for Mysuru's industrial development.**

"Being the President of Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, K.B. Lingaraju's contribution for the development of Mysuru's industrial sector is remarkably impressive."

K.B. LINGARAJU'S PROFILE

K.B. Lingaraju is a Post Graduate from the University of Mysore, with GDC from Mysore Co-operative Union. He has been elected as the President of Mysore Chamber of Commerce & Industry at its General Body Meeting. He was born and brought up in a political and agriculture background family.

His father Byrappa and mother Lakshmamma are running a factory in the name of 'Kiran Industry' manufacturing barbed wires and chain links.

K.B. Lingaraju has served in the Executive Committee of Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry for over 15 years. He is also a member of KASSIA and FKCCI, Bengaluru and has also served as the Secretary of KIADB Manufacturers Union.

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Sculpting Magic

Mysuru has long been renowned worldwide for its vibrant Dasara celebrations. However, now, for sometime to come, Mysuru will also be known as the birthplace of acclaimed sculptor who carved 'Balak Ram,' all thanks to the talented artist Arun Yogiraj, a third-generation sculptor from Mysuru.

Arun's remarkable achievements have made Mysureans proud and has also solidified our city's reputation as an abode of art and culture.

Arun's three notable sculptures — the statues of Adi Shankaracharya in Kedarnath, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate in New Delhi, and now, Balak Ram in Ayodhya — stand as a testament to his exceptional skill and dedication.

Star of Mysore **Managing Editor Vikram Muthanna spoke to Arun Yogiraj about his sculpting journey. Excerpts...**

Star of Mysore (SOM): You have three prestigious sculptures in India. How did you get a breakthrough into North India as not many decision-makers there would know about artisans from the South?

Arun Yogiraj: Our biggest drawback is that we are far away from Delhi and getting access to decision-makers is not easy. I was able to get access to Delhi through the statue of Adi Shankaracharya, commissioned by Jindal Steel Works (JSW) through a CSR fund.

The company had taken up the restoration works of Adi Shankaracharya's Samadhi, which was damaged in floods. JSW contacted various States asking for names of stone artists.

In Karnataka, they approached Dr. Mohanrao B. Panchal, Head, Department of Visual Arts, Kannada University, Hampi, who referred the names of five artists and I was one among them.

The company asked the artists to submit a 2-foot tall model of Shankaracharya. The models were presented to Prime Minister Modi and he liked my model. Later, I received a call informing me that my model was selected and was asked to sculpt the bigger statue.

SOM: It is said, you almost didn't get to sculpt Subhas Chandra Bose's statue. What happened?

Arun Yogiraj: I was in discussion to sculpt Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's statue. In the meantime, a meeting with the Prime Minister was pending as the PM wanted to meet me personally after the installation of Adi Shankaracharya's statue in Kedarnath.

The meeting kept getting postponed. So I requested our Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha to help me.

Since I had agreed to sculpt the statue of Subhas Chandra Bose, I had sculpted a miniature stone idol of Netaji. By this time, Pratap Simha got an appointment with the PM. He then not only helped me carry the small statue of Netaji in the plane despite weight restrictions but also made me stay at his MP residence in Delhi.

During our meeting, PM Modi enquired about the progress of Netaji's statue. I informed him that I had not received any work order and that some people were approaching me for subcontract work for Netaji's statue!

The PM was surprised and immediately instructed Union Minister Pralhad V. Joshi to set the matter right.

After this, Union Minister for Culture G. Kishan Reddy was summoned. Even he was shocked to learn that I had not received any work order. Both Pralhad Joshi and Pratap Simha followed up and finally, I received the work order on June 13, 2022.

[Continued on Page - 23]

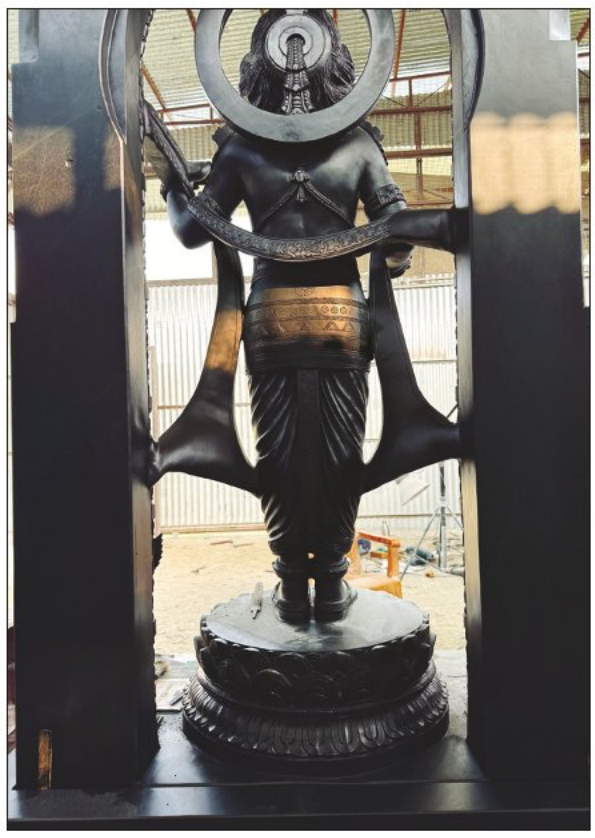
[Pic. by M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav]

How Arun Yogiraj got selected to sculpt

Balak Ram

Arun Yogiraj giving finishing touches.

Balak Ram with wooden bow and arrow.



Intricately sculpted back side of the idol.

[Continued from Page - 22]

If I had not spoken to our MP and had he not got the Prime Minister's appointment immediately, I would have missed my chance to sculpt Netaji's statue. It would have probably been sculpted by someone else and credit would have gone to some other person who didn't even sculpt it as it would have been subcontracted.

SOM: How did you get selected to sculpt Balak Ram's idol?

Arun Yogiraj: It all started with the search for the artist in January 2023. Three sculptors from Karnataka and another from Rajasthan, who are known to me, were informed about the work. But I was not informed.

I was disappointed that even though I had completed two national projects (Netaji and Adi Shankaracharya), I was not informed. But I consoled myself saying that I had already completed two major national projects, so it's okay.

But then in April 2023, a meeting was held at Delhi's Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) to finalise the artists who will sculpt Balak Ram. In that meeting, IGNCA Member-Secretary Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, who had personally seen my work in Delhi, was surprised not to see my name in the list of artists shortlisted to sculpt Balak Ram. Dr. Joshi then asked the *Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust* to invite me to immediately present my work.

I was called overnight to Delhi. A few weeks later, 11 artists were shortlisted and three of them were finalised, I was one among them.

> **"In crafting the idol, I aimed to blend elements from various Indian traditions. The black stone idol acts as a bridge between North and South India. Jewellery is carved in Hoysala style, attire reflects North Indian aesthetics and *'kankana'* is inspired by the South. Depictions of Lord Hanuman and Garuda are in Tamil Nadu style while the Dashavathara is influenced by North Indian temples. This idol symbolises a harmonious fusion of India's artistic traditions."**

Arun Yogiraj gifting miniature statue of Netaji to PM Modi in Delhi on Apr. 5, 2022. MP Pratap Simha, who had co-ordinated the meeting, is also seen.

SOM: What style of sculpting did you decide on?

Arun Yogiraj: I had to connect both North and South India and the black stone idol connects well with the Southern part. While sculpting the idol, I ensured that the jewellery was carved in Hoysala style. The attire was sculpted in North Indian style and again the *'kankana'* was sculpted in South style.

Lord Hanuman and Garuda have been sculpted in Tamil Nadu style. The *Dashavathara* has been sculpted with reference to North Indian temples. The Balak Ram idol is an amalgamation of the best Indian styles since the idol belongs to the entire nation.

SOM: What was your routine in Ayodhya when you were sculpting?

Arun Yogiraj: The first day of work began by offering *'puja'* to the stone as per rituals. The sculpting works began with offering *'shila puja'* and tying *'kankana'* to our hand which restricts us from taking up other works until the completion of work in progress. I made sure the *'kankana'* was also tied to the hammer that I used for sculpting the idol.

For us, it was only *'Satwik'* food that was allowed to be consumed. We were provided with sprouts every day, as we needed a lot of protein to go with our physical work. We were also taught yoga but when my first idol of Balak Ram was rejected, I stopped yoga as I was working in double shifts to carve another one.

[Continued on Page - 26]

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NIE hosts first Sky Watch programme

Mysuru, Feb. 16- The National Institute of Engineering (NIE) in Mysuru hosted its first ever Sky Watch Programme, captivating attendees with celestial wonders. Organised by the Vijnana Tharangini - The NIE Student's Science Club under Department of Physics, in association with the Gravity Science Foundation, Chamarajanagar, the event drew enthusiasts from the region.

Esteemed guests, including Dr. S.N. Prasad, former Principal and Professor of Physics, RIE, Mysuru and M. Krishna Murthy, Amateur Astronomer, were present, offering attendees a mesmerising journey through the cosmos with a Telescope Show.

Dr. Prasad, who holds a habit of travelling to different countries to observe total solar eclipse, delivered a special lecture on the wonders of night sky.

A.S. Abhishek, Founder of the Gravity Science Foundation, highlighted the significance of initiatives like the Sky Watch Programme in fostering scientific curiosity.

Faculty Coordinators Dr. M.V. Deepa Urs, Dr. P. Parameshwara and Dr. Chandra played vital roles in ensuring the event's success.

Participants marvelled at sights like the Orion constellation and Jupiter with its moons, observed up close through high-powered telescopes.

Dr. Prasad commended the organisers for promoting scientific awareness and nurturing inquiry among students, emphasising its importance in grooming future scientists.

Organisers expressed gratitude to participants, guests and supporters, envisioning the Sky Watch Programme as a recurring event, fostering greater exploration and discovery in astronomy and other scientific fields.

In conclusion, the Sky Watch Programme at NIE marked a significant milestone in promoting scientific education and exploration, igniting curiosity and fascination among attendees.

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Sculptor's Studio in Mysuru

[Continued from Page - 23]

SOM: You said that your first idol was rejected. Can you explain?

Arun Yogiraj: The first sculpture was 70 percent complete when a certain test conducted turned negative. Periodic tests are conducted to see the integrity of the rock. Owing to the rejection of the first idol, I lost three months.

Later, I started to sculpt another idol in September with another stone, also brought from Mysuru. Initially, I felt a bit nervous as I had lost time but on the other hand, I got clarity of what I needed to create.

SOM: Tell us about your team which worked with you in Ayodhya.

Arun Yogiraj: I had my team members Nagaraju, Cheluvaraju, Siddaraju, Kumaresh and Jagadish, some of whom have worked with us for almost 30 years.

My team worked in batches, when one batch left after working on the pedestal, a new team would arrive to assist me in the design works.

SOM: The eyes of Balak Ram in some photos seemed to glow, is there some effect that you have given them?

Arun Yogiraj: There is no special effect given to the eyes. We apply ghee, honey and sugar to the eyes and cover them as part of the rituals. Some ghee and honey might have remained on the eyes on the day of consecration so maybe when they photographed it, light refraction may have given it a glow (laughs). On a serious note, we do not apply any chemicals, glass etc. It's just an etched-stone effect.

SOM: Why did you use silver hammer & gold chisel to sculpt the eyes?

Arun Yogiraj: It is mentioned in *Shilpashastra* to use a silver hammer and golden chisel and a particular time *(muhurta)* is fixed for *'Nethramilana'* (carving of eyes). In the case of Balak Ram, the *muhurta* was fixed by the head priest Ganesha Acharya.

Before sculpting the eyes, I took a dip in the Sarayu River, which was about 4-5 degrees Celsius, and visited the Hanuman Garhi (Hanuman Temple) before sculpting the eyes. We first inscribe the *'beejakshara mantra'* on the uncarved blank eyes before we begin sculpting the eyes.

SOM: What is the actual height of the Balak Ram idol and what was the height and weight of the stone?

Arun Yogiraj: The height of the idol is 77 inches, 42 inches in width and it is 2-ft in thickness. The rock that was used was about 9½ ft in height and weighed 13,000 kgs. Now the idol weighs about 2,000 kgs.

SOM: Was there a regular inspection while you were working on the idol?

Arun Yogiraj's studio 'Bramharshi Kashyapa Shilpakala Shala' on Sahukar Chennaiah Road in Mysuru.

> **"MP Pratap Simha proposed that if Ayodhya Trust can have the copyright and make miniatures of Balak Ram, it should tie up with Karnataka Government to send black stone from Mysuru from which they can make these miniatures rendering them more authentic and worthy of copyright.**
>
> **This collaboration, he believes, would not only secure copyright but also generate funds for the Trust. It would provide consistent employment for sculptors and create a new revenue stream for Karnataka. Furthermore, Mysuru would gain recognition as millions of households across the nation and the world would showcase Balak Ram miniature models crafted from its stone."**

Balak Ram idol team

Arun Yogiraj at his workshop in Mysuru along with some of his team members who assisted him in sculpting the idol of Balak Ram.

Arun Yogiraj: There were regular inspections being done for all three idols sculpted by different artists. The Committee Members were sensible as they used to visit all three sculptors without giving room for any suspicion of favouritism.

SOM: Apart from inspection by the Committee, we heard there was regular inspection by a monkey.

Arun Yogiraj: There were a lot of monkeys in Ayodhya near the studio where we were sculpting. But every day, a monkey would visit the studio between 5 pm and 6 pm and bang the door. I am not sure whether it was the same monkey though. I even have the video of the monkey roaming around in the studio. I don't want to give it a connotation that it was a 'divine visit.' But all the same, it was an interesting coincidence.

SOM: Is there a copyright on Balak Ram? Can you produce miniatures to sell?

Arun Yogiraj: Actually, I told the Trust Members to copyright Balak Ram. Then MP Pratap Simha had the idea that if Ayodhya Trust can have the copyright and make miniatures of Balak Ram, it should tie up with the Karnataka Government to send black stone from Mysuru from which it can make these miniatures rendering them more authentic and worthy of the copyright.

Pratap Simha felt if this is done, then the Ayodhya Trust will get funds, sculptors will get continuous work, Karnataka will have a new revenue stream and Mysuru will also become famous as the Balak Ram miniature models made using the stone from Mysuru will be in millions of households across the nation and world.

[Continued on Page - 27]

Bringing Stones to Life

[Continued from Page - 26]

SOM: Now that you have achieved a great feat, there must be a lot of demand for your work. How are you managing it?

Arun Yogiraj: I have indeed been getting a lot of orders from across the world, especially from the USA and South Africa, both for idols and other works.

But I know my capacity and I cannot fulfil so many orders. So, I tell customers that it takes quite some time for me to complete a statue. If they are comfortable with that, then I take up the work else I provide them the contact of other artists. Also, it is good to have the work of different artists.

SOM: Are you running an institution to guide budding sculptors?

Arun Yogiraj: Yes, I am running a school called **Bramharshi Kashyapa Shilpakala Shala,** which now has 7 full-time students and during summer camps, children join us to learn line drawing, pottery and other arts.

I am planning to construct two additional rooms in my studio for the benefit of the students. Currently, I am not charging any fees because I want to give back to the profession which has given me so much.

SOM: Who should our readers contact if they are interested in learning sculpting?

Arun Yogiraj: Interested can contact my brother Yeshwanth on **Mob: 99451-51505.**

Star of Mysore ***Managing Editor Vikram Muthanna in a tete-a-tete with sculptor Arun Yogiraj at his studio on Sahukar Chennaiah Road in Mysuru.***

Making Mysuru proud...

For the foreseeable future, Arun Yogiraj will continue to enjoy widespread popularity as the man who sculpted the idol of Balak Ram. Despite his acclaim, Arun Yogiraj remains remarkably humble and transparent in his artistic approach, the qualities that undoubtedly contribute to his mastery.

Michelangelo, the great Italian sculptor, once said, *"Every block of stone has a statue inside it, and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it."* Arun Yogiraj not only discovers it, he seems to almost bring it to life. He certainly brought a sense of divinity to the Balak Ram statue and in doing so, brought a lot of attention to Mysuru, reminding the world that our city still has it — artists and culture.

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Innovative therapies for neurodevelopmental conditions like autism spectrum disorder focus on relationship development, focusing on dynamic intelligence and guided participation. This flexible, individualized approach improves quality of life and promotes thriving in a neurodiverse world.

- **Parenting Dynamics:** Parenting a child with autism differs significantly from parenting a typically developing child, primarily due to the lack of intuitive guidance from the child.
- **Impact on Development:** Without the typical interactions and guidance, children with autism miss out on crucial developmental opportunities, such as theory of mind development, self-awareness, and emotional understanding.
- **Continued Challenges:** These developmental impairments persist into childhood and adolescence, hindering the ability to naturally acquire social and emotional skills.
- **Deprivation of Relationship:** Children with autism are deprived of the thousands of hours of interactive experiences that typically developing children benefit from, which significantly impacts their quality of life.
- **Opportunity for Growth:** By recognizing the importance of providing opportunities for social and emotional growth, irrespective of age, individuals with autism can still make significant progress.
- **Research-Based Approach:** It's essential to base interventions not just on traditional research methodologies but also on a strong research base that supports changing perspectives and approaches to autism intervention.
- **Mindful Parenting:** Parents need support in developing a mindful guiding relationship with their autistic child, understanding that intuitive parenting may not naturally develop and actively participating in their child's developmental journey.

Mind Guiding for Parents

Readiness for Mind Guiding Depends on the child's readiness for mind guiding, not just language proficiency or conversational abilities.

Both parties must engage in a reciprocal learning process

Characteristics of a Guiding Relationship

The child's intrinsic motivation to remain engaged with their guide is crucial.

Facilitating Autonomy and Engagement

Parents balance supporting child's autonomy with providing appropriate challenges.

This involves structuring activities, offering emotional support, and encouraging independence within a safe environment.

Building Activity Frameworks

A guiding relationship thrives on mutual expansion and extension of activity frameworks.

Both parties contribute to enriching existing activities, fostering creativity, and exploring new learning avenues.

Embracing the Journey of Growth

A successful guiding relationship transcends concerns about child disengagement or boredom.

Both parties actively contribute to each other's growth and enjoyment.

Parent finds joy in witnessing the child's progress and independence.

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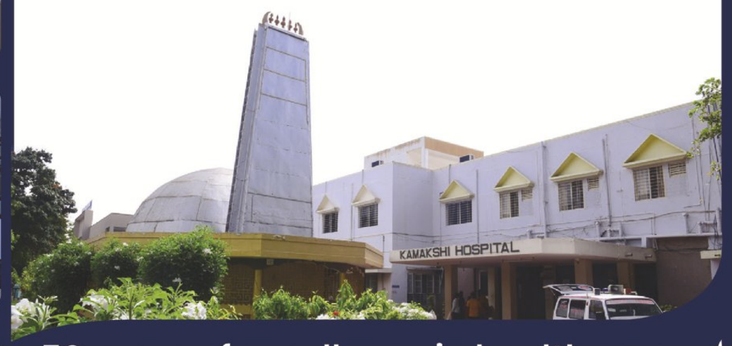

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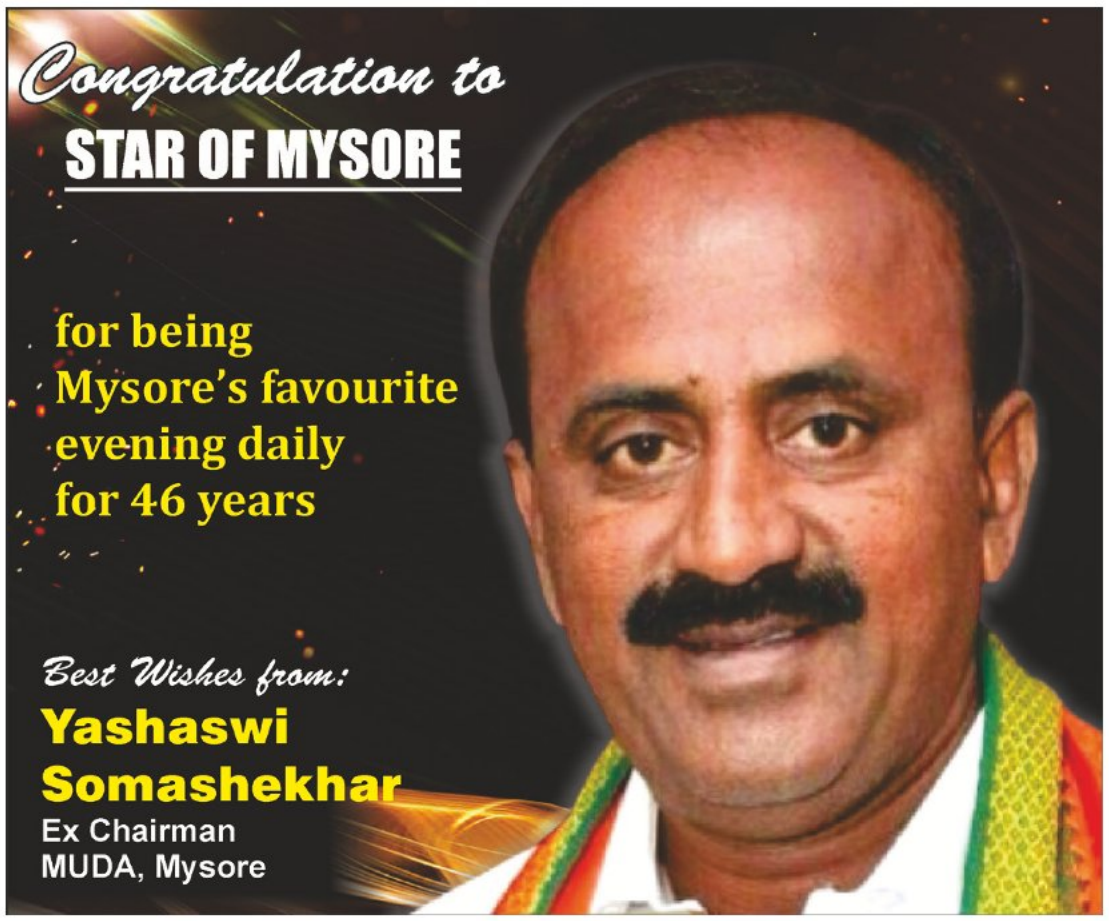

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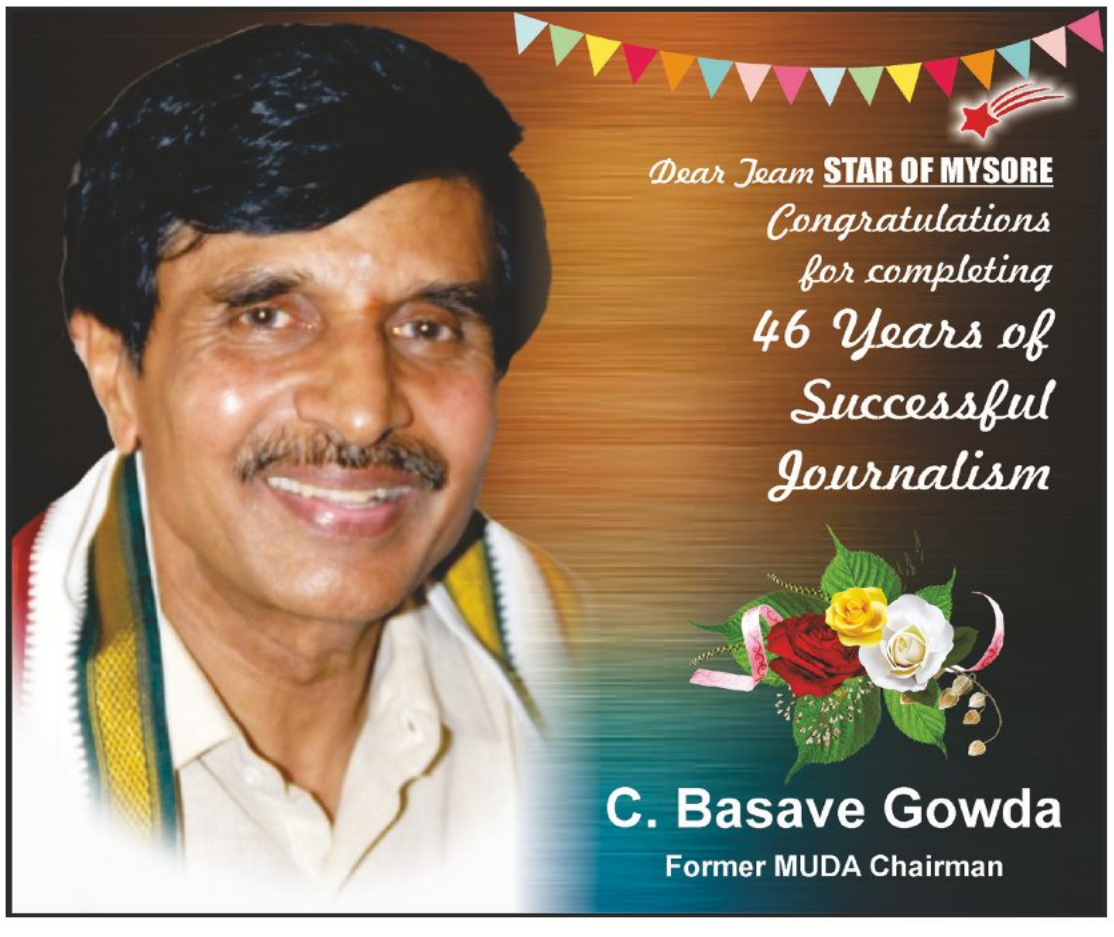

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*Students of Geetha Bharathi Higher Primary School, Mysuru, who emerged star winner in F.K. Irani Volleyball Tournament conducted by Ideal Jawa Rotary School at University Grounds recently — (kneeling from left) **Likith Kumar, Lochan, Srujan, Rakesh, Tharun, Nuthan Murthy, Venkatesh, Sudeep and Chiranth — are seen with Principal S.R. Hemalatha, Academic Co-ordinator Sumana, PE Instructors Krishnegowda and Madhuchandra. Picture below shows the students of GSSS Bantwal Madhava Shenoy High School who secured runners-up position in the Tournament — (kneeling) Kishan Gowda, Kavin Rohit, Likith Gowda, Rakesh, Deemanth, Ullas, Suchith, Yashwanth and Akash Chavan.***

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Commenting on the collaboration and the launch of the scholarship scheme, Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman & Managing Director, JK Tyre & Industries Limited, stated: "At JK Tyre, we recognise the invaluable contribution of the commercial vehicle drivers to the transportation industry and our commitment to them and their families' well-being extends beyond our business interests. We believe in the transformative power of education and are dedicated to fostering an environment where every child has the chance to excel. The JK Tyre Shiksha Sarthi Scholarship Scheme is not just about financial aid but about empowering the next generation and we are proud to partner with TISS and Protean Vidyasaarathi to make this initiative a reality."

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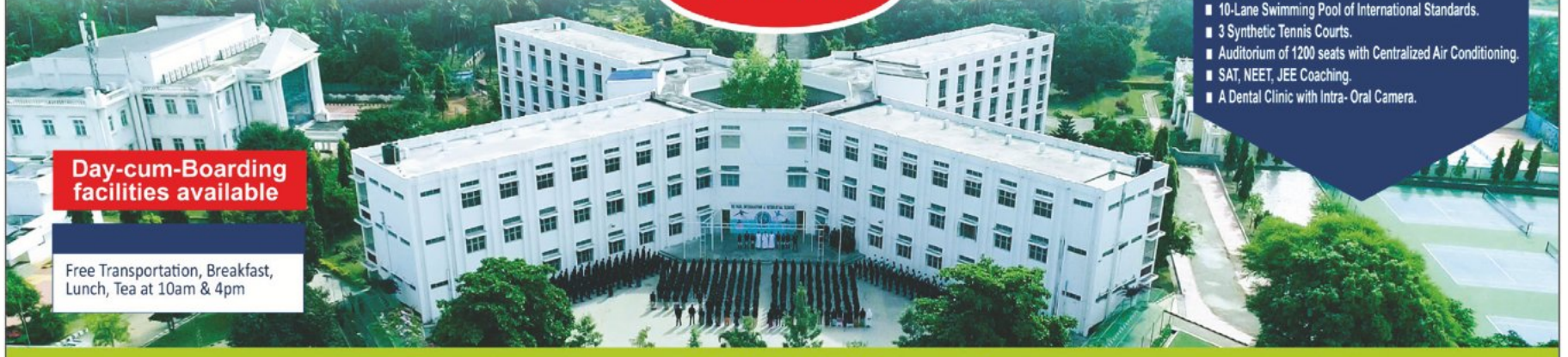

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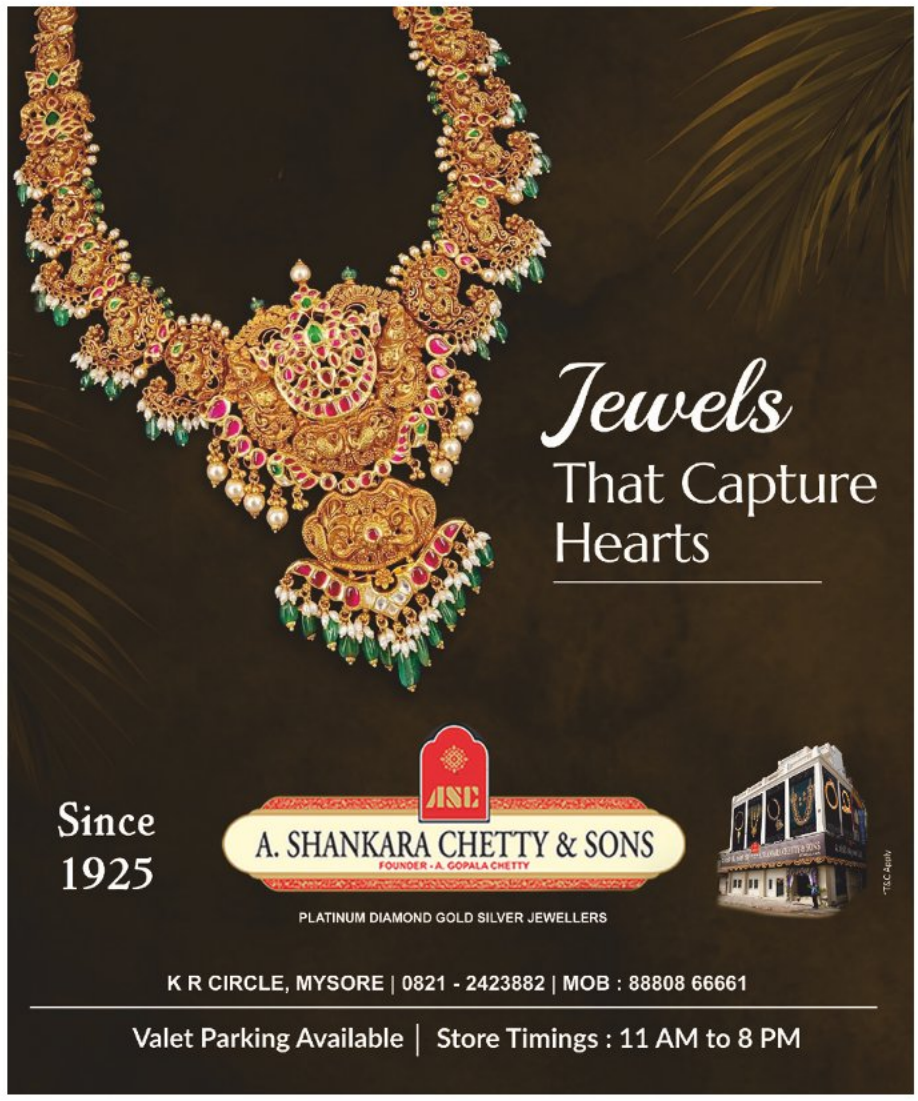
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Attractive offers by BSNL to upgrade to Bharat Fiber

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (BS)- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Mysore Telecom Circle, has introduced attractive offers to its customers in Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu and Mandya districts, to upgrade to Bharat Fiber (FTTH) that promises unlimited bandwidth and hi-tech technology for its landline and broadband connections.

The FTTH provides high speed internet, data and voice call services. The existing traditional copper line network is being changed to Optical Fiber Network as part of its Pan India plan. The landline and broadband customers can upgrade to Bharat Fiber, without changing their landline telephone number.

FTTH WiFi Modem worth Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,500 will be installed for free, with the monthly plans starting from the affordable rate of Rs. 299 (Urban) and Rs. 249 (Rural). The OTT Packs include Disney+Hotstar, Zee5, Sony Liv and more, worth Rs. 666 and above, without additional charges (the existing packs will be carried over).

Under My BSNL App, 1800-4444 WhatsApp Chatbot service is being offered with a tag line 'One-stop Solution For All.'

The BSNL Mysore Telecom business area comprises four districts having a total of 10,800 landline and broadband connections. Among them, 1,100 consumers have upgraded to FTTH and remaining consumes are requested to make use of the offer, according to BSNL authorities.

Ph.D Awardee

Dr. Ajay

Mysuru, Feb. 16- Dr. Ajay Attiguppe Prabhakar has been awarded Ph.D from IIT Madras (IITM), Chennai, for his thesis 'Development of a polymer-based integrated transdermal drug delivery system' submitted under the guidance of Prof. Dhiman Chatterjee of Mechanical Engineering and Prof. Amitava Das Gupta of Electrical Engineering Departments of IITM, Chennai.

An alumnus of Sri Ramakrishna Vidyashala (SRKVS) in Mysuru, Nutana College in Davangere, PES Institute of Technology (PESIT) in Bengaluru and National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal, Dr. Ajay is the son of Dr. A.R. Prabhakar and Dr. K.R. Chatura and is the grandson of late Attiguppe Chayakanth Setty of Mysuru.

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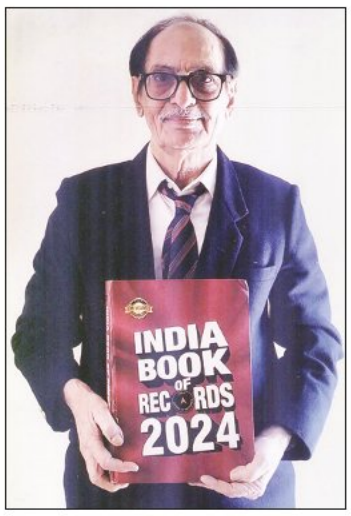
Bengaluru Cartoonist's Hand-Made Flip Books enter India Book of Records

Bengaluru, Feb. 16- The creation of 'Hand-Made Flip Books' by noted Bengaluru-based cartoonist B.V. Panduranga Rao has earned the honour of getting into India Book of Records 2024 as Maximum Number of Hand-Made Flip Books.

Fifty unique 3D Flip Books made in different sizes, on various subjects like sports, environment, awareness, COVID-19 and other topics was recognised by India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records and was awarded certificates and medal.



B.V. Panduranga Rao

The 80-year-old cartoonist Rao, winner of number of awards for his cartoons at International Cartoon Contests from 40 countries, has already earned the honour of his entry into Limca Book of Records 14 times, India Book of Records 13 times, Unique World Records 6 times and World Record India 2 times.

He has also been a recipient of Grand Master Award, URF Legend Award, National Humanitarian Excellence Award and the Genius Cartoonist of the Year 2023 Award.

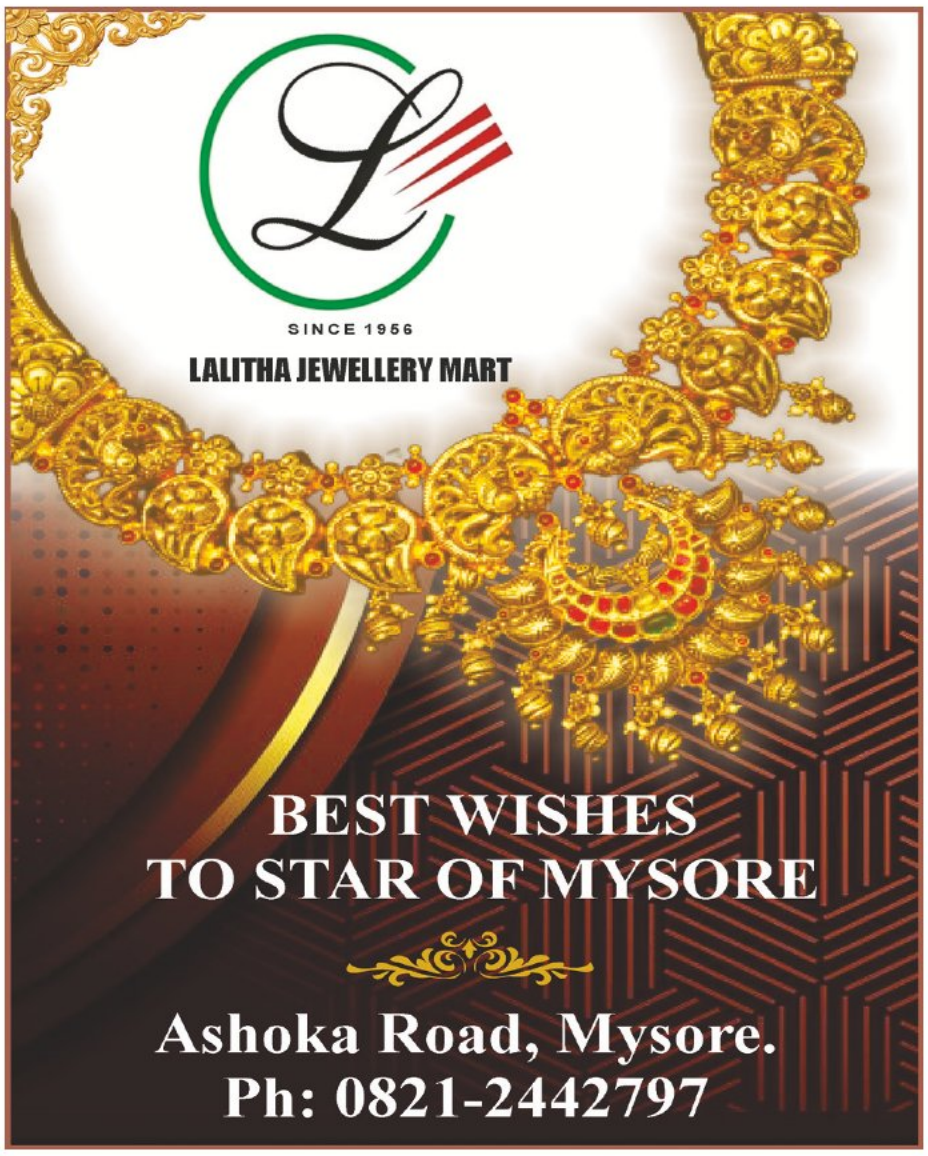
Rao is a retired Engineer from Bhilai Steel Plant and a Hobby Cartoonist for the past 56 years. He was born in Mysuru and studied in Chamundipuram Middle School and Hardwicke High School before continuing his studies in Bengaluru.

New team of ICSI Mysuru

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), Mysuru Chapter, having its office at No. 125, NHCSL Layout, off KRS Road, Metagalli, Mysuru, is now headed by a new team of members under the Chairmanship of CS V. Padmanabha, for the year 2024. Seen are *(sitting from left)* ***CS A.B. Abhishek Bharadwaj - Secretary, CS D.N. Phani Datta - Immediate Past Chairman, CS V. Padmanabha - Chairman, CS C. Krishne Gowda - Vice-Chairman;*** *(standing from left)* ***CS M.G. Arunkumar - Member, CS A.N. Janhavi - Member and CS Reshma Anwar - Treasurer.***

Selected for Natl. level sports

Bharati, a student of Yoga Science Programme, University of Mysore (UoM), has won second place in the Under-18 category of ASMITA Khelo India Women's Yogasana League (South Zone) held at Dindigul in Tamil Nadu recently and has been selected for the National level event. Another student, S. Vinuta, was part of the University team which won first prize in the South Zone Inter-University Women's Kho Kho and has been selected for the National level. They are seen with Co-ordinator Prof. S. Madialagan, lecturers Ravanikar, Darshan and Krishna.



75-year-old runner crosses 50,000-km mark

Mysuru, Feb. 16- G. Mohan, a retired Assistant Controller of Defence - Accounts Department (IDAS) and a resident of Srirampura in city, has successfully crossed 50,000-km run as on May 8, 2023.

The 75-year-old Mysurean started running for fitness in his 65th year and runs 365 days a year thus in 10 years completed 50,000-km as on May 8, 2023. As on Feb. 10, has completed 54,236-km and still continues to run.

He takes part in Marathon events all over India and has 321 finishers medal and 35 podium finishers trophies.

Star of Mysore wishes this septuagenarian to achieve more feats.

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Sadvidya School excels in GK Contest

Sadvidya High School (SHS) has won first prize and Rolling Shield in the 50th Inter-High School Competition in General Knowledge 2023 conducted by Sri Ramakrishna Vidyashala, Yadavagiri, Mysuru, recently. Sadvidya has won this prize for the 18th consecutive year. M.S. Raghunandan of 10th std. and G. Jeevan of 9th std., who bagged 1st prize and the other students are seen with Institution Hon. Secretary Prof. MSK Narahari Babu, Joint Secretary Prof. K.S. Hiriyanna, SHS Head Master Ramachandra Bhat, Academic Advisor Shailaja Prahlad, SHPEMS HM & Guide Teacher S.S. Anilkumar and Asst. HM & Guide Teacher K.R. Pradeep.

Lions Sevaniketan School Magazine released

The 35th Annual Day of Mysore West Lions Sevaniketan School was held at the School premises in Gokulam recently. Sam Cherian, Managing Director of Schevaran Laboratories & Chairman of CII Mysuru, who was the chief guest, is seen releasing the School Magazine along with Lions Club President Ln. Dr. Ravichandra Kulkarni, School President Ln. Dr. M.V. Venu, School Secretary Ln. Ali Vagh, Treasurer Ln. K.S. Gururaja, Principal Sivakumar, Administrator Thrinesh and Vice-Principal Shobha Pereira.

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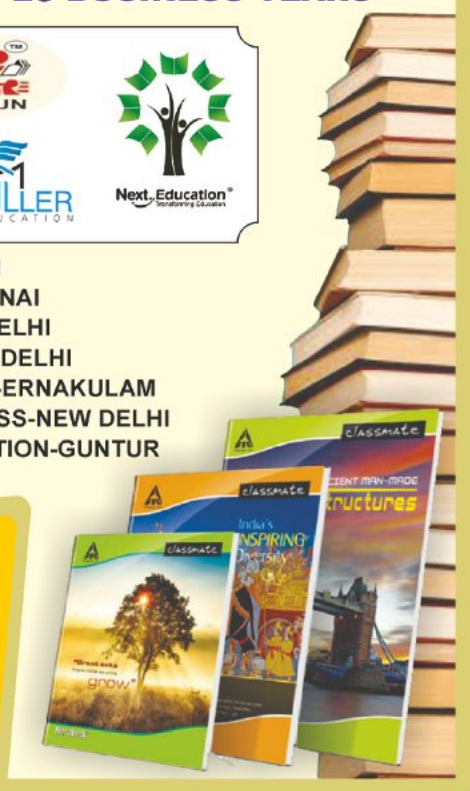

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The hospital's oncology department offers advanced treatments for cancer patients, ranging from liver resections to cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC (hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy), providing positive oncological outcomes, even in traditionally challenging cases.

Furthermore, Narayana Hospital Mysore recognizes that cancer care extends beyond physical treatment, addressing the intricate emotional and psychological dimensions of the disease. The emphasis is placed on early detection, prevention, and holistic support for patients.

The hospital remains committed to bridging gaps in cancer care, aiming to make the treatment process as seamless as possible for patients. Through these efforts, Narayana Multispeciality Hospital continues its mission to provide comprehensive care and support for cancer patients, ensuring better outcomes and improved quality of life.

For more details contact : Narayana Hospital, CAH/1, 3rd Phase, Devanur, 2nd Stage, Mysore
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On World Cancer Day, it's vital to recognize the pivotal role of cancer awareness and prevention in our daily lives. With the array of advanced technologies and treatment options at our disposal, detecting and treating cancer has become increasingly feasible. Rather than viewing cancer as an insurmountable obstacle, we should approach it with a spirit of hope and determination: 'I AND WE WILL FIGHT AGAINST IT.' Let's unite in this collective battle to curb the rising incidence of cancer and conquer this disease together."

—Dr. Vidya G
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—Dr. Nithin Raj D, Consultant Medical Oncologist

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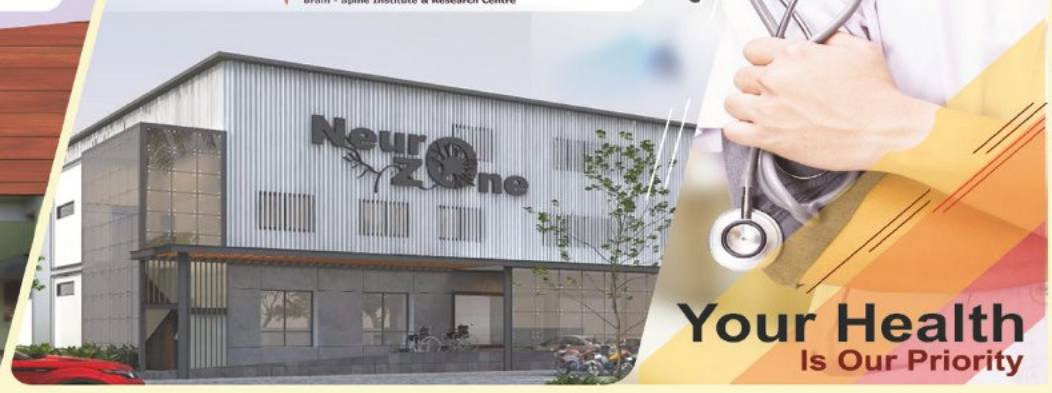

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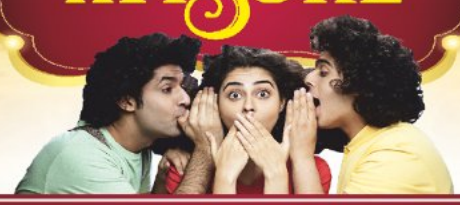

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‘Bharata Kesari-2024’ award for retired CRPF ASI

‘Bharata Kesari-2024’ awardee K.G. Thangamma (retired CRPF ASI) seen with** (standing from left) **G.K. Kamala, Manager, L&T Technology Services, Mysuru, Guru Vidu. Chandramathi A. Rao, Rajyotsava awardee, Shobha Balakrishna, Principal, Swarna Educational Institution, Holenarasipur and Guru Vidu. C.N. Anitha, Founder-Director, Nrutya Vidyapeeta.

Mysuru, Feb. 16 (MK&DM)- Retired CRPF (Central Railway Protection Force) Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) K.G. Thangamma was conferred with ‘Bharata Kesari-2024’ award by the city’s Nrutya Vidyapeeta (Academy of Classical Dance and Indian Arts) at its 14th Annual Day celebrations, Nartana Vrukshaavali-2024 and ‘Sri Ramayana Darshanam’ dance-drama programme organised at Kalamandira here recently.

Speaking after receiving the award, Thangamma said that she was from Kodagu district and had served in the CRPF for about 21 years. Stating that she was thankful to Nrutya Vidyapeeta for recognising her services and conferring her with the award, she said, in the past, at least one member of a Kodava family used to join the Defence forces. But this has declined over the years, she regretted.

Maintaining that guarding the nation at the borders is a matter of pride for everyone, Thangamma expressed disappointment at the decreasing number of youths in joining the Army.

Noting that parents too are only eager to make their wards either engineers, doctors or other professionals, she said it is exciting to serve in the Army. She recalled her experiences while serving in the CRPF.

Students of Nrutya Vidyapeeta presented ‘Nartana Vrukshaavali’ and ‘Sri Ramayana Darshanam’ which earned a huge applause from the audience. K.G. Amitha compered.

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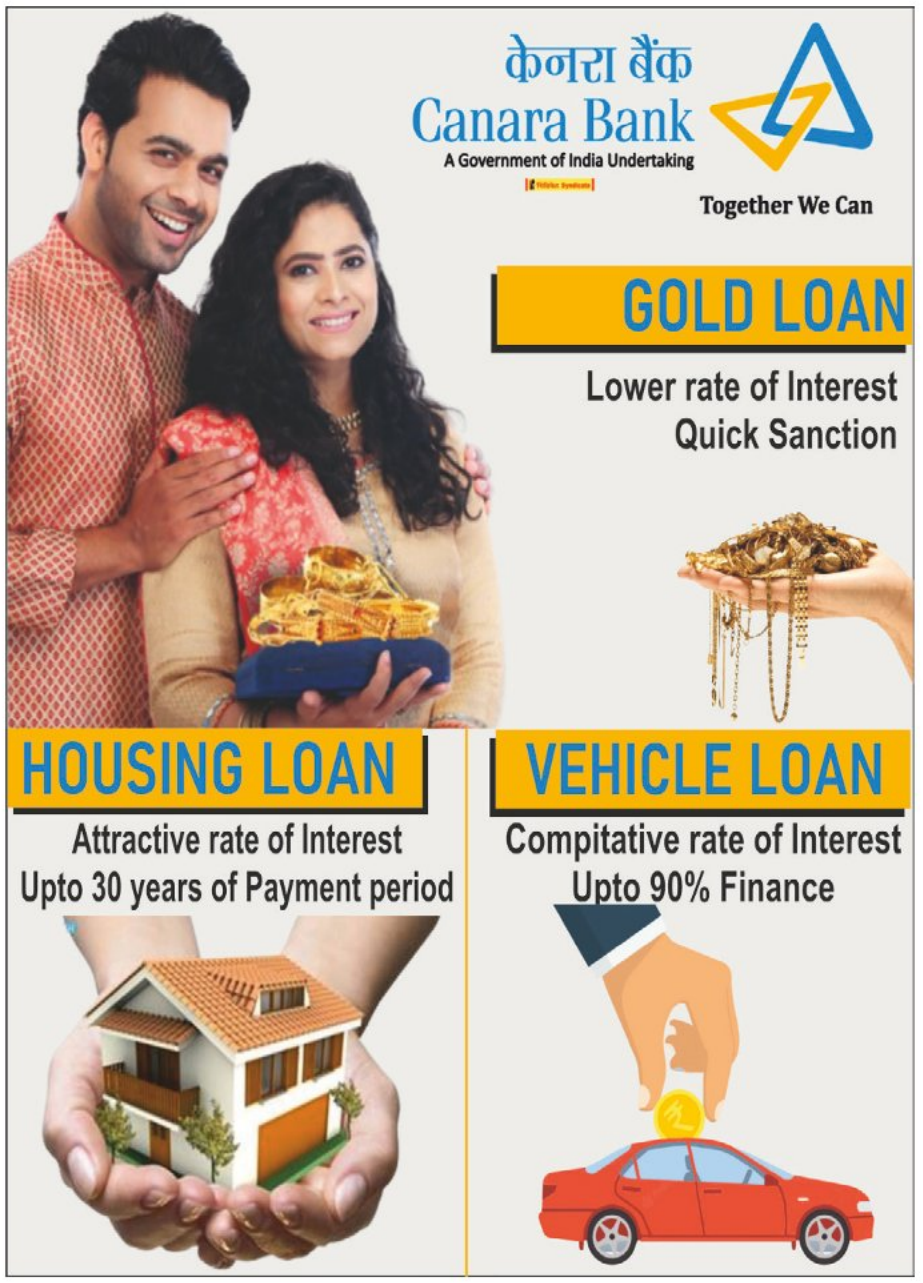

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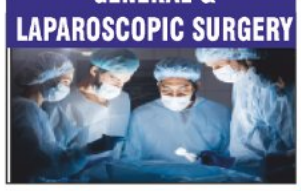

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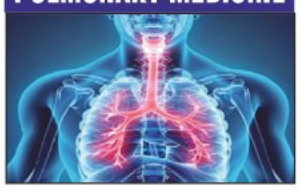

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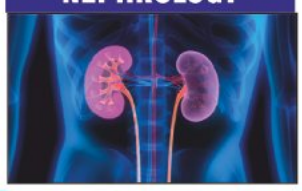

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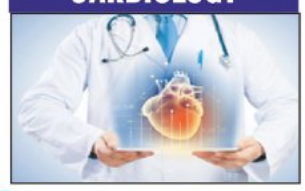

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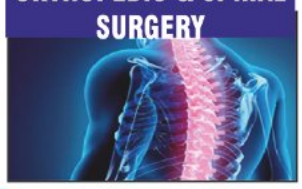

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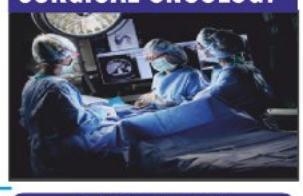

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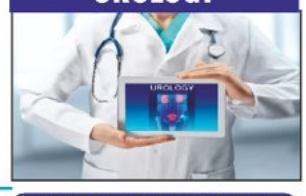

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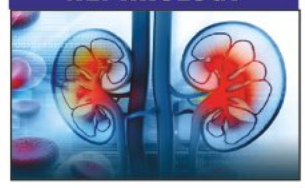

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Now, Dr. Vikram Sampath's book 'Savarkar' in Kannada

Bengaluru, Feb. 16 (BS)- The book titled *'Savarkar - Vismruthige Sarida Gatakalada Mardanigalu, Kranti Suryana Mele Ksha-Kirana 1883-1924,'* a Kannada translation of historian Dr. Vikram Sampath's *'Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past 1883-1924,'* will be released at Indian Institute of World Culture premises in Basavanagudi here on Feb. 18 at 10 am.

The book, translated into Kannada by S.S. Narendrakumar and published by Sahitya Prakashana, Hubballi, will be released by noted writer Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa. Pampa awardee litterateur Dr. Babu Krishnamurthy will be the chief guest. S.L. Bhyrappa Sahitya Pratishtana Hon. Secretary Prof. G.L. Shekar will compere. The book will be sold at a discounted price at the launch.

S.L. Bhyrappa Sahitya Pratishtana Award

Bengaluru, Feb. 16 (BS)- Nadoja awardee, writer and thinker S.R. Ramaswamy will be presented with 'S.L. Bhyrappa Sahitya Pratishtana Award' for the year 2024 at Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs on Basavanagudi Road in Bengaluru on Feb. 18 at 4.30 pm. The award, instituted by S.L. Bhyrappa Sahitya Pratishtana, Mysuru, will be presented by noted Kannada scholar Nadoja T.V. Venkatachala Sastry.

Acclaimed Novelist Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa will also be present.

Sandeep Balakrishna, Founder-Editor, *The Dharma Dispatch* and Vighneshwara Bhat, Editor of *Rashtrotthana Sahitya,* will speak on the scholarly contributions of S.R. Ramaswamy.

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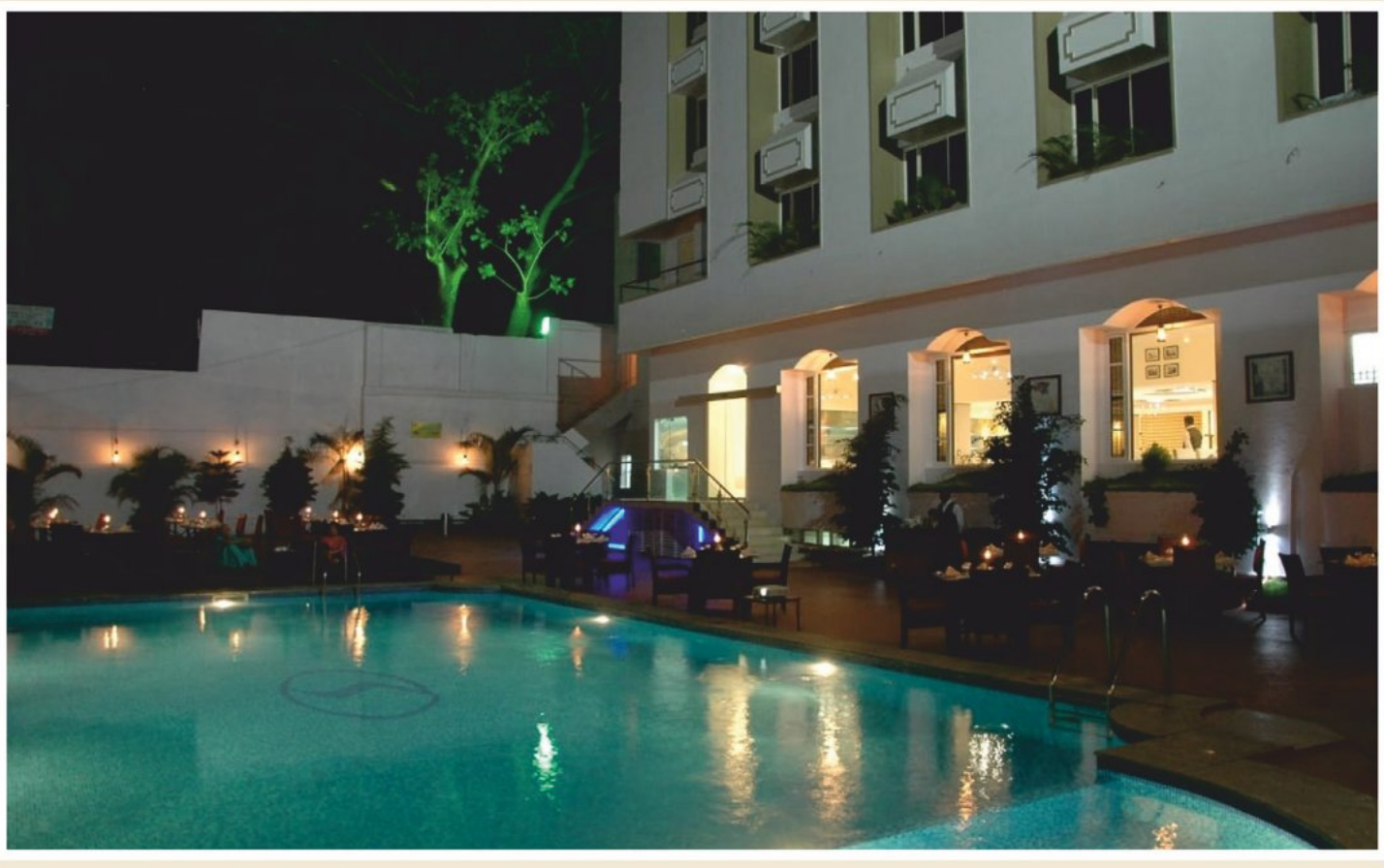
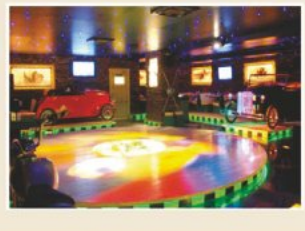




Neglected Legacy

Once vibrant century-old Rama Mandiras of Mysore fading into oblivion

By Maya Sitaram

The frenzied fervour with which the Ram Temple at Ayodhya was inaugurated transports one to the memoirs of the unique music tradition reverberating from the innumerable Rama Mandiras in Mysore for over 200 years.

In the quaint bylanes of Mysore's old localities, Lord Rama was celebrated by placing and presenting him in beautifully built structures — Mandiras — which have now become 'heritage.' But amidst the innumerable heritage buildings spread across the city which include the magnificent Palaces and other majestic buildings, the smaller and localised Mandiras are obscured and long forgotten.

At the beginning of this century, there were around 120 Rama Mandiras in Mysore with various vintages, some with known and a few with unknown antiquity. Exact number is not known. There was one on each road, says an avid Mysorean. Of these, perhaps 25-30 were of heritage value. Even the heritage experts are unaware of the existence and/or decay of some of the old Mandiras, maybe because of too much 'antiquity' on their hands.

The Mysore Heritage Area Development and Preservation Expert Committee has listed 198 heritage buildings in the city. The Bidaram Krishnappa's Sri Prasanna Sita Rama Mandira located on Narayana Shastry Road and Sri Ramabhyudaya Sabha, Srirampet, are the only two Mandiras which find the place.

The former was inaugurated in 1928 and the latter is 133 years old, thereby making it clear that being '100,' as defined in the Mysore Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1961 and Rules, 1965, is not the only criteria applied.

The impasse of being 'heritage'

The attributes of being 'heritage' include having architectural, aesthetic, historic or cultural value inherited by people as per the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961. The Kunchitigara Rama Mandira, Santhepet, is not listed despite possessing these qualities and being 140 years old.

The Act also says that the buildings which have their history reflecting the culture of the people when they came into existence should be preserved but is this possible when heritage buildings and assets therein have been unrecognised however unusual and priceless they are?

REMNANTS OF PAST GLORY: ***Premaleela Sri Rama Mandiram at Sunnadakeri.***

Traversing the old Mysore area, one comes across several big and small Mandiras, some of which are on the verge of collapse and need urgent restoration. These Mandiras were built by the weavers, wrestlers, traders, merchants, washermen and fishermen communities each of which had a specific caste and cultural identity. The Mandiras were built to provide a platform for social and cultural activities for the surrounding neighbourhood which communed to sing Bhajans and listen to the discourses from the epics *(Harikatha)*. The Ramanavami festivities were celebrated with much gusto, bringing in stalwart musicians to the city and adding to the cultural fabric.

The Wadiyars ಅಳುವ ದೊರೆ supported the festivities with funds and, at times, with Palace honour/s. From 1900, for about fifty and odd years, it was fashionable to build 'hathu janagala' Mandira — ಹತ್ತು ಜನಗಳ ಮಂದಿರ — which laid its foundation on public participation in institution building and management. Most of the Mandiras were attached to a 'garadi' (ಗರಡಿ), a place equipped for physical training.

Crumbling Heritage

Old-time Mysoreans recollect the disappearance of a Mandira at Ittigegud due to neglect, another at the cross road of Ashoka Road was demolished to make way for a commercial complex, the list is endless. There are a few more which are on the verge of collapse like the Premaleela Sri Rama Mandiram at Sunnadakeri.

Community participation and contribution dwindled with the advent of time and television, thereby leading to apathy and the collapse of many of the Mandiras. A few of them were converted to temples as it attracted people and the revenue needed for the upkeep and maintenance. Lack of funds, lack of leadership and intra-family conflicts are some of the factors which led to the neglect.

The sustainability concepts introduced by some of the founders, of building and renting out commercial spaces within the Mandira precinct, have not yielded the desired results due to many factors including inflation. Added to it is the boom in real estate prompting the Mandira managers to wait for the collapse of the structure, such is the misery of urban heritage.

Conservation!?

The modern-day utility of the Mandiras has taken different hues. Some have a modern touch to the flooring, wall etc., to keep up with the trend! Jaade Sanjeevayya Rama Mandira, Veeranagere, close to Central Jail, is being used as a backend kitchen of a fast-food restaurant, Belle Rama Mandira located at the bylane of Irwin Road is used as a carpentry workshop. Mysore Style Painting of Sri Rama at the altar, old-type mantapam and Lord Hanuman in metal relief work which was earlier used as processional images are the remnants!

Not following the old way of restoration processes has lessened the antiquity value, this is less understood and appreciated. Different definitions and perceptions of what constitutes 'heritage' by different authorities add to the confusion! There are no adequate policies or execution which protect, promote, conserve and enhance the heritage value. Framing of the Heritage Act has seen a decent burial!

Incentives by the Government for the upkeep of the premises, waiving property tax, organising Rama Mandira Tours, including the Mandiras on the world map along with the other known heritage structures are ways by which visibility is created so that the Mandiras stay, thrive and enhance the heritage value of the city and add to 'Our Heritage, Your Destination.'

If not all, at least identify the ones that could be salvaged and restore to its past glory in order that the Rama Mandira is seen and appreciated at one's own backyard than only at Ayodhya!

ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE: ***Sri Rama Mandira located on the Second Cross in Sunnadakeri, Mysuru.***

MOVING INTO OBLIVION: ***Thipaiahnavara Hathu Janagala Dasharatha Rama Mandira (Attached to Ustad Gopala Somanna Garadi) on Nala Beedi in Sunnadakeri.***

WAS THERE YESTERDAY - GONE TODAY: ***Sri Maha Nada Sabha Rama Mandiram in Ittigegud.***

ATTEMPTED MODERNITY: ***Sri Sita Rama Mandira on Jatti Beedi in Nazarbad.***

Over a cup of evening Tea

By Dr. K. Javeed Nayeem, MD

A Tale of Two Cities & Two Clocks !

The first part of the title of this article, as is most certainly known to almost all my readers, is actually the title of a very famous historical novel penned by Charles Dickens, published in the year 1859, set in London and Paris, before and during the French Revolution which came to be known as 'The Reign of Terror.'

It tells a very poignant story of love, sacrifice and redemption, against the backdrop of the turbulent historical events of the time. It focuses on two look-alike characters who are both in love with the same woman. While one marries her, the other, in the true style of a true and selfless lover, eventually gives his life to save her husband's life years later.

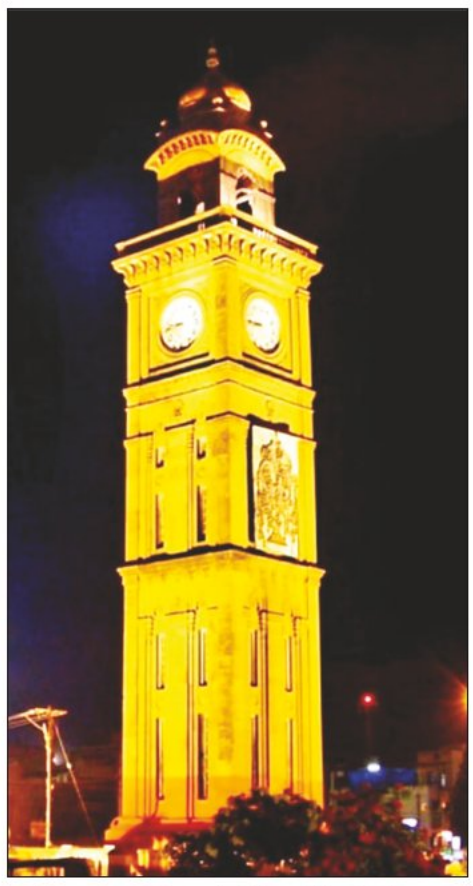
In a most absorbing narration, the tragic story explores the themes of sacrificial love, revenge and forgiveness. But mind you, the similarity in the title of what Dickens has written then and what I am writing now, a full hundred and sixty years later, ends here! The times and things he has written about then and the times and things I am writing about now, are completely unrelated although not dissimilar.

I am only using his title for impact, secure in the knowledge that with Dickens long gone, I would certainly be safe from any legal hurdles or consequences, of the kind that such acts are prone to attract!

The times then were turbulent in France and the times now too are indeed very turbulent, across the entire world. Exactly like actors on stage in a play, as completely helpless inhabitants of this earth, destined to live here and share our living space, just for what you can call the 'blinking of an eye' in a historical time-frame, we can only hope and pray that we have the good sense to strive for it and hope against hope that elusive peace, will eventually prevail!

It is perhaps for times like these that the Persian Sufi poet, **Rumi** has said: **"Since life itself is as brief as a half-taken breath, let's preach only love!"** Yes, there's just no time for any other kind of preaching.

The Big Ben of London.



Our own Silver Jubilee Clock Tower.

It is very interesting and pertinent to note that Dickens opens his novel with a sentence that has become very famous and iconic: **'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way — in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.'**

Why I have chosen to render this certainly very long sentence in full here, is only because I want the impact of his words to inspire the people of our time, especially the youngsters, who have not yet read Dickens, to read his works and relish what can be called very delightful reading. Although enjoying reading, which is often considered laborious, certainly is an acquired taste, they will most certainly acquire it and enjoy it too, for the rest of their lifetimes, if only they go along with a little perseverance. After that, believe me, it is bound to be a roller-coaster ride!

And, to make this process easier and less painful, they can always start by reading the easily available and much abridged and simplified versions of the classics, which would otherwise seem very daunting. That is exactly what I did as a fledgeling reader. The two cities that I am writing about today are faraway London and our own Mysuru and the only two things I am talking of are the two iconic clocks that have been standing in their respective places over the ages.

Starting with London, **The Big Ben** that stands there, is undisputably the most iconic and most well-known clock in the world. It has been marking the passage of time since the year 1859, which by a quirky coincidence, was the year Dickens penned his *magnum opus!*

Strictly speaking, the name Big Ben, refers only to the actual bronze bell weighing 15.1 tons that peals every hour, but it is commonly associated with the whole clock tower at the northern end of the Houses of Parliament. The tower itself was formally known as **St. Stephen's Tower** until 2012, when it was renamed **Elizabeth Tower** on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee celebrating 60 years on the British throne.

Here too in the heart of Mysuru we have our most iconic clock tower that has been marking the passage of time, albeit with a few pauses from time to time, since the year 1927 when it was erected to mark the Silver Jubilee of the rule of one of our most illustrious Maharajas, H.H. Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV. There's nothing dishonourable that there were a few pauses in its ticking because like any other man-made machine, it needed periodic attention to keep it ticking.

And this resting and restoration period is exactly what it is going through right now. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the restoration of the clock tower had been prepared by the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage while the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) will take up the work at a cost of Rs. 41 lakh under the supervision of members of the Mysuru District Heritage Conservation Committee. The imposing, 75-feet-tall structure, overlooking the equally imposing Rangacharlu Memorial Town Hall, had developed cracks in the dome while some of the decorative features in the canopy atop the structure had fallen off. It appears that the steps inside the structure leading to the dome too have been damaged.

Though the clock was ticking and telling us all the correct time, the bell of French origin, had fallen silent since the last 20 years. It is not very clear whether it stopped striking on its own or was silenced to prevent further damage to the ageing tower but its restoration too is on the cards. But the experts still seem to be in some confusion whether its loud booming peal and the consequent hourly vibration, will start damaging the tower once again.

So, some citizens are now of the opinion that to avoid this possibility, the bell should only be retained in its present lofty perch just for ornamentation and the business of proclaiming the passage of the hours should be done by some kind of an electronic device, through a loudspeaker. Others feel that we can do without this gross ignominy and leave the clock to stand silently, retaining its past glory and dignity but still doing its duty of showing us the time.

I'm not very sure which side of the fence I should stand on in this matter, because getting over this quandary is a challenge best left to the experts. But like the many old-timer Mysureans I recall that the magical sound of the bell would reach as far as five to six kilometres away.

It is a different matter that with the passage of time, the sound of the bell got drowned in the sound of automobiles and other noises that gradually became all pervasive across our fast-growing city.

Now whether we give it an electronic voice or retain its original source of sound, while we should all feel happy that this 'time keeper' of our beautiful city, that has been telling us the correct time, from the time when not many people in the city had wrist watches or clocks at home, we should certainly not allow it to fall silent!

e-mail:
kjnmysore@rediffmail.com

Beyond the BRUSH

Trupty Somaiah occupies a distinctive realm within the digital and traditional art landscape. Primarily focused on creating and customising art and design, her works stand as a captivating study in contrasts and intricate detail, predominantly exploring shades of black and white.

Her artworks have been exhibited in galleries of major cities worldwide including New York, Miami, Tokyo, Milan, Rome, Toronto, Mumbai, New Delhi, Kochi and Bengaluru.

In a candid conversation at *Star of Mysore* office, Trupty Somaiah delves into her career as an artist, her experiences collaborating with clients and the profound impact of digital art on society and culture. Read on...

By B.C. Thimmaiah

Star of Mysore (SOM): When did you decide to pursue art as a career and what led you to focus your work on the digital realm?

Trupty Somaiah: I have an art background and after a long hiatus, I rediscovered my passion in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I initially returned to art through dot work, using a pen for convenience. At first, I created pieces for myself, but as I shared them online, I received positive feedback and requests for commissioned artwork. I started using an iPad and this enabled me to explore customised art further and I found that I excelled in this area.

As my online presence grew, I came across the 'Plated Project,' a competition seeking digital format artworks and I transformed my traditional pieces into digital copies. To my surprise, I won, prompting me to make my profile public. This opened doors to the digital realm.

SOM: Can you elaborate on traditional and digital art?

Trupty: In essence, my traditional artwork involves meticulous, hand-drawn pieces bursting with colour and intricacy, crafted painstakingly.

This method demands intense focus and concentration, often feeling akin to a meditative practice. It also takes time and is hard to find buyers.

Though I seamlessly transitioned between traditional and digital mediums, I concentrated on digital art and found financial stability by venturing into the realm of NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens).

SOM: What are your primary sources of inspiration?

Trupty: They stem from the strength and courage inherent in women, qualities often underrepresented but present in every woman. I am drawn to beauty in various forms, from the elegance of a meticulously arranged pile of books to the symmetry found in everyday objects.

Additionally, I find inspiration in ordinary objects like bottles and flowers, often combining them in unexpected ways to create compelling compositions. At first, my artistic exploration was confined to specific themes, but now I revel in the freedom to explore diverse subjects.

SOM: Describe your art process between ideation and finalisation.

Trupty: The process begins with identifying the emotion I aim to convey through the piece. Whether it's beauty, sadness, excitement or any other emotion, this initial decision sets the tone for the entire composition.

I start by researching and deeply studying reference images, focusing on realistic elements that can evoke the desired mood or emotion. Once I gather inspiration, I move on to creating rough sketches and composing the images.

I often employ the rule of thirds — dividing the canvas into thirds vertically and horizontally, aligning key elements according to the natural movement of the viewer's gaze. This technique helps emphasise focal points and build around the central concept of the artwork.

Despite lacking formal training beyond my art background, this approach allows me to express myself authentically and connect with audiences on a deeply emotional level.

SOM: How do you balance artistic expression and client demands?

Trupty: While artistic freedom can sometimes be limited by client specifications, I've been fortunate to attract clients who appreciate my unique style and seek artwork based on it. However, I also enjoy embracing challenges and finding a balance between my artistic expression and the client's requirements.

SOM: How do you see digital art shaping society and culture in the long term?

Trupty: Traditional oil paintings were considered the pinnacle of artistic expression. With the emergence of digital art and now the advent of AI-based art, there is an understandable apprehension and insecurity among traditional artists.

It's important to recognise that different art forms do not threaten each other; rather, they often complement one another and contribute to the rich diversity of artistic expression.

I feel by embracing change and evolving alongside new developments while maintaining a solid artistic foundation, artists can continue to thrive and excel in an ever-evolving artistic landscape.

SOM: What role does technology play in your artistic endeavours?

Trupty: Technology has revolutionised every aspect of my artistic journey, from the initial ideation phase to the final sale of my work. Without the reach of technology, my art would have remained confined to a limited audience, but through online platforms, I've been able to garner global recognition.

Whether it's inquiries from New York, Malaysia, Singapore or other distant places, social media serves as the primary avenue through which people reach out to me to inquire about my work.

SOM: Tell us about your aspirations and the road ahead.

Trupty: It's essential to realise that there are numerous paths to success and fulfilment beyond traditional professions like engineering or medicine.

I want to inspire others and to live authentically, pursue my dreams and find fulfilment in every aspect of my life, regardless of external pressures or expectations.

From Guatemala to Mysuru
A Baker's Journey

By R. Eshwari

Raquel loves yoga, baking and Mysuru. Armed with a degree in Physiology and Biomedical Science, she is the Founder of **Local Friendly Bakery, Vontikoppal.** She firmly believes that attention to detail and creativity blossom with practice, a philosophy rooted in her upbringing.

"I've been enveloped in the aroma of freshly baked goods for as long as I can recall," she reminisces. Her mother, a dedicated baker, would craft delectable treats every Friday for no fewer than 14 families.

The tradition of baking runs deep in Raquel's family, a heritage she proudly upholds. Fleeing Egypt due to escalating anti-Semitism, her family found refuge in Guatemala in Central America. Amidst upheaval, food became their anchor, preserving cherished cultural practices.

Following her academic pursuits, Raquel embarked on a brief hiatus, journeying to explore her passions. Intent on mastering both yoga and pastry craft, she visited Mysuru. However, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted her plans, leaving her stranded and unable to indulge in her beloved pastime of baking.

"During that stagnant period, I longed for the comfort of a freshly baked croissant," she says. Determined to recreate the experience, Raquel briefly joined SAPA, a popular restaurant in Gokulam, to hone her croissant-making skills. Nearly two years later, Raquel turned her passion into a full-time profession, emerging as a skilled baker renowned for crafting irresistible delights that captivate her clientele.

Many of the recipes featured in the bakery have been cherished heirlooms passed down through generations. The recipe book, a treasured keepsake, holds a collection of their most beloved baked treats. Within its pages lie the secrets to her grandma's renowned taco seasoning, her mother's delectable banana bread, as well as recipes for bagels, blackberry cake and more.

Raquel's grandmother found refuge as a refugee in France for a year, while her father's family resided in Iran until the revolution in 1979 forced their displacement. As a result of these rich cultural influences, the bakery offers a unique menu that tantalises flavours from both Egyptian and Parsi cuisine.

Operating on a weekly schedule, the bakery promises a delightful surprise with each visit, as Raquel continuously introduces new and exciting creations. "I like to keep things fresh and interesting," she says, underscoring the bakery's commitment to an ever-evolving menu.

"For a baker, mastering the art of recipe interpretation and execution is paramount. It's where everything begins. I advise aspiring bakers to immerse themselves in multiple recipes for the same item to refine their skills," she recommends.

Raquel at her Local Friendly Bakery in Vontikoppal, Mysuru.

The bakery's weekly menu changes not only to embrace seasonal ingredients but also to reflect the weather and special occasions, such as featuring chocolates during Valentine's week.

Initially baking solely for personal enjoyment, Raquel has since embraced the philosophy of turning passion into a profession. "Find something you're passionate about, something you'd do for free, and make it your career," she advises.

Despite the demanding nature of her profession,

Raquel has discovered a new-found enjoyment in baking on a larger scale. While acknowledging the long hours and occasional challenges, she remains dedicated, often spending up to 20 hours a day at the bakery. She attributes much of her success to her supportive staff, who share her enthusiasm and dedication.

A CHALLENGING JOURNEY

As a woman and a foreigner, establishing a bakery in Mysuru presented its challenges. Raquel's journey was marked by trial and error, with her partner, proficient in Kannada and engineering, providing invaluable assistance in navigating bureaucratic hurdles and setting up operations. Raquel believes that entrepreneurs must learn the local language.

Although she misses her family, Mysuru has provided Raquel with a sense of belonging, offering a warm climate reminiscent of Guatemala. "Mysuru feels like home, with its tropical flora and friendly people, despite the architectural differences," she says.

Raquel's advice to aspiring female entrepreneurs is simple: Pursue what you love. She acknowledges the sacrifices that come with entrepreneurship but encourages perseverance, stressing the importance of continuous learning and adaptation to stay ahead in the ever-evolving business landscape.

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EVENTS TOMORROW (FEB. 17)

- **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Mysuru:** 6th National Short Film Festival 'Cinerama-2024,' Session on 'Tales Over the Top' by Swati Sapna, Manager - Original Non-Fiction Programming, Netflix India, **9 am;** Screening of shortlisted short films, **11.30 am onwards;** Valedictory & Award Ceremony, singer-music director-actor Gurukiran and actor 'Nenapirali' Prem celebrity guests, DRC Cinemas-Mysuru Proprietors Vaishali and Hanumanth guests of honour, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham premises, Bogadi II Stage, **5.30 pm to 7.30 pm.** [Mob: 91644-61193]
- **Trayinyas Shrividya Foundation:** Sri Shyamala Navaratri Mahotsava, Mahabhisheka, Saptashati Parayana, Srichakrarchane, Navavarana Puja, **8.30 am;** Sri Dashashyamala Homa, Foundation premises, Jayalakshmipuram, **5.30 pm.**
- **Sri Trineshwaraswamy Temple, Palace premises:** Sri Trineshwaraswamy Brahmotsava, Dhwajarohana, **9.30 am;** Beritadana, Devatahvana, Balipradhana Vrishabha Vahanotsava, Temple premises, **7 pm.**
- **Karnataka State Archives Department, Divisional Archives Office, Mysuru and Vidyavardhaka First Grade College:** Seminar on 'Karnataka Yekikarana mattu Kannada Asmithe,' historical documents and photographs exhibition, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa inaugurates, Chamaraja MLA K. Harishgowda presides, College premises, Vidyavardhaka FGC, Seshadri Iyer Road, **10 am.**
- **Coffee City:** 'Twilight Whispers of Hampi - Photography Expo' by Shivashankar Banagar, Neralu-Belaku Gallery, Coffee City, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, **10 am to 9 pm.**
- **Mysore Open Forum (MOF):** Talk on 'Kuvempu and Revolution in Ideas & Culture' by Prof. C. Naganna, Visiting Professor, Kuvempu Institute of Kannada Studies (KIKS), University Mysore (UoM); Screening of documentary on Kuvempu, Kalpa Kshetra Auditorium, Vijayanagar 4th Stage, **10.30 am.** [Mob: 94498-19536]
- **District Administration:** Unveiling of the portrait of 'Vishwaguru Basavanna' by District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Kalamandira, **11 am.**
- **Ashakirana Charitable Trust, Mysuru:** Conference on 'HIVe Mysore 2024 - ART Update,' N. Rangarao & Sons Managing Partner Arjun Ranga chief guest, AIDS Society of India (ASI) Mumbai President Emeritus Dr. Ishwar Gilada guest of honour, Hotel Sandesh The Prince, **12 noon.**
- **Fourth Wall Theatre, Bengaluru:** Staging of play 'Skewed,' RamaGovinda Rangamandira, Ramakrishnanagar, **4 pm and 7 pm (2 shows).**
- **Nadavidyalaya Academy of Music and Dance, Hebbal:** Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha of Arpitha Uday Nayak, Jaganmohan Palace, **5 pm.**
- **Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Mysuru:** Swami Viprananda speaks on 'Mantra Shastra,' Ashram premises, Yadavagiri, **6 pm.**

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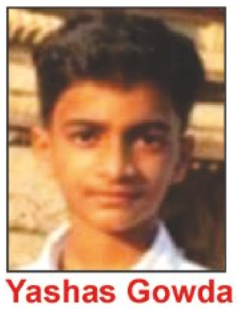

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Annual Music Festival from Feb. 16 to 18

Saint Thyagaraja and Saint Purandaradasa

Mysuru, Feb. 16- As part of Annual Music Festival of Saint Thyagaraja and Saint Purandaradasa Aradhana celebrations, N.R. Mohalla Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust has organised the following concerts at Sri Prasanna Mahaganapathi Temple on Shivaji Road in N.R. Mohalla from Feb. 16 to 18:

Feb. 16 - 6.30 pm: Vocal Concert by Vidu. Kruthi Vittal. She will be accompanied by Vid. Keshava Mohan Kumar on violin, Vid. H.L. Shivashankar Swamy on mridanga and Vid. Sharath Koushik on ghata.

Feb. 17 - 6.30 pm: Vocal Concert by Vid. Sandeep Narayan. He will be accompanied by Vid. B. Anantha Krishnan on violin, Vid. Tumkur B. Ravishankar on mridanga and Vid. G.S. Ramanujam on ghata.

Feb. 18 - 9 am: Nadaswara and rendering of kritis of Saint Thyagaraja and Saint Purandaradasa by individuals; **11 am:** Honouring of artistes S. Ramprasad and Dr. Rama V. Bennur; **12 noon:** Pancharatna Kritis of Saint Thyagaraja in chorus; **1.15 pm:** Concluding Session and Mahamangalarati.

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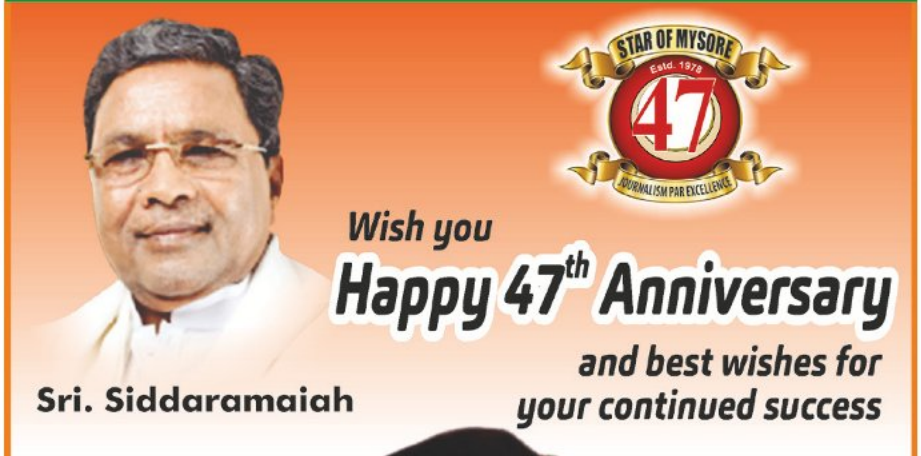

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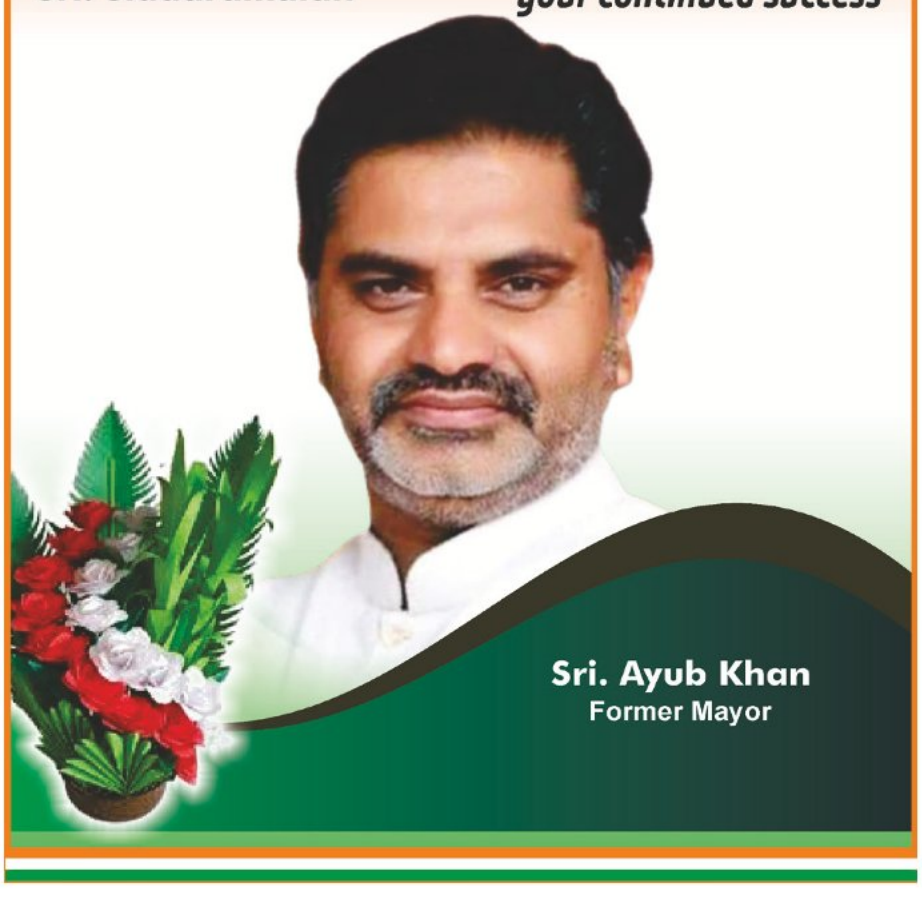
Sri. Siddaramaiah



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Congress Leader

EVENTS TODAY (FEB. 16)

- **Mysore Fashion Week:** Season 7 by Fashion Designer Jayanthi Ballal, Mysore Union, Hebbal Industrial Area, **4 pm to 10 pm.**
- **Department of Visual Communication, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Mysuru:** 6th National-level Short Film Festival 'Cinerama-2024,' Screening of shortlisted short films, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham premises, Bogadi II Stage, **4.30 pm.**
- **Adamya Rangashale, Spandana Samskrutika Parishat and Daksha PU College:** Valedictory of 'staging of PUC textbook based plays,' staging of P. Lankesh's play 'Muttisikondavanu' and Dr. H. Nagaveni's 'Dhanigala Bellilota' by II PUC students, Daksha PU College, Hootagalli, **5.30 pm.**
- **Trayinyas Shrividya Foundation:** Sri Shyamala Navaratri Mahotsava, Sri Dwadasha Saraswati Homa, Foundation premises, Jayalakshmipuram, **5.30 pm.**
- **Ganabharathi, Mysuru:** Karnatak Vocal Duet by Vidu. Sindhu Sucheth-an and Vidu. H.M. Smitha, accompanied by Vidu. Prithvi Bhaskar on violin, Vid. Tumukur B. Ravishankar on mridanga and Vid. V.S. Ramesh on morching, Veene Seshanna Bhavana, Kuvempunagar, **6 pm.**
- **Sanchalana Mysuru:** Valedictory of Sanchalana Children Theatre and Folk Festival, Theatre Person Rajashekara Kadamba, former DDPI Manjula, DDPI H.K. Pandu, Kannada & Culture Assistant Director Dr. M.D. Sudarshan, Dreams Buzz Vice-President M.P. Suresh will be present; Staging of play 'Pushparani' by students of Shaktidhama Vidyashala, Mysuru, written by Dr. Chandrashekara Kambara and directed by Deepak Mysore, Mini Theatre, Kalamandira premises, **6.30 pm.**
- **Sri Trineshwaraswamy Temple, Palace premises:** Sri Trineshwaraswamy Brahmotsava, Mooshaka Vahanotsava and Ankurarpana, Temple premises, **7 pm.**

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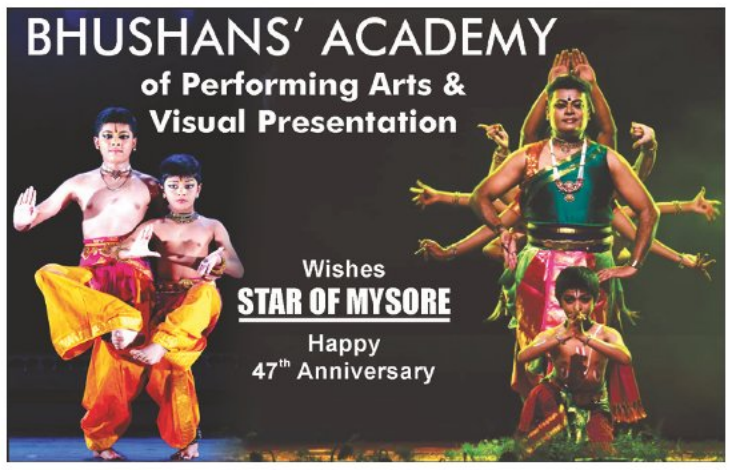

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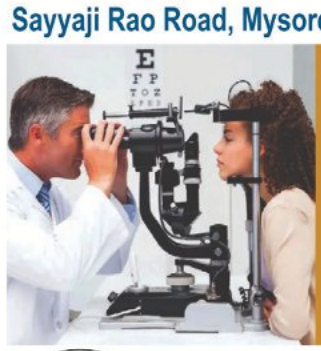

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By Girija Madhavan

LOOKING BACK...

The grand wedding of 1950 in Mysore

When a Brilliant Mathematician wed a Graceful Mysorean at a grand hotel in a stylish manner

While dining at the Hotel Metropole in Mysore recently, I watched as a festive table was being prepared for a party; bringing back a sheaf of memories of a wedding lunch there in 1952.

At 14 years of age, it was my first formal luncheon in a stylish hotel and Metropole was indeed a grand hotel back then.

In those days, sumptuous wedding meals were customarily served as "Ele Oota" [food served on banana leaves] to guests seated comfortably cross-legged on the floor. This was going to be different.

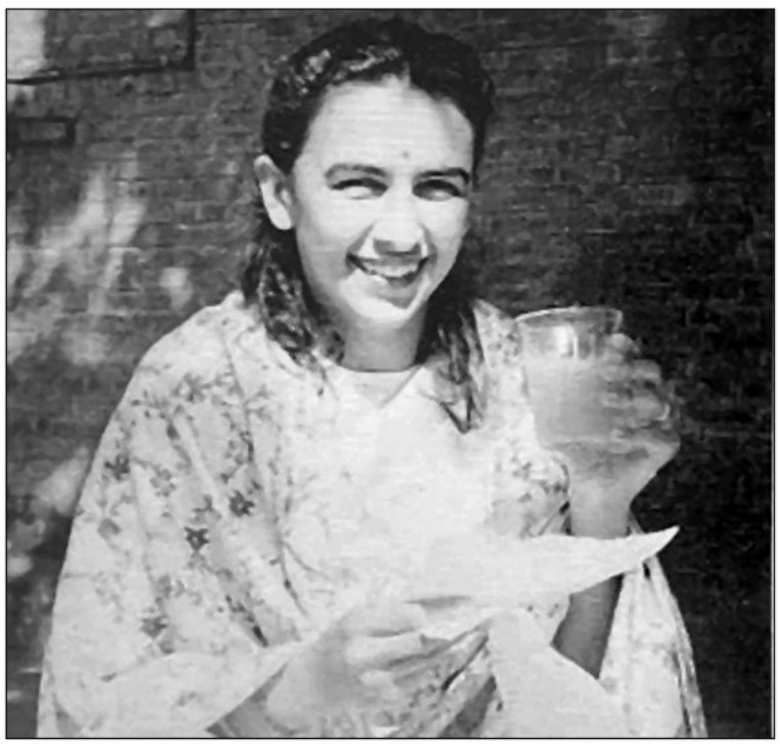
This stylish wedding at Metropole that I'm reminiscing is that of my older friend Lalitha Kale with the legendary Harish Chandra, who many may not know now.

Lalitha's father Dr. G.T. Kale, a scientist in the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), came to Mysore in the 1940s with his Polish wife Hadasa Kale and their daughter Lalitha Kale, fondly called 'Lily.' We became close family friends.

Lily was born in Poland in 1934. The family got away from Europe and arrived in Bangalore when Lily was about 6 years of age. Sadly, Hadasa Kale, to her great grief, lost almost all her family in Poland during the Second World War. Lily had her schooling in Bangalore and joined Philomena's College in Mysore for graduation. She shared a Tonga with some girl friends for the ride from her home in Vontikoppal to the College.

I always recall her as one of the most beautiful women I have seen. A statuesque 5'9" tall, with chiselled features, strongly marked eyebrows and exquisite colouring, she was the 'Elizabeth Taylor with Brown Eyes' to her admirers. Generous and kind by nature, Lily drew people of all ages to her.

Mukta, my mother was close to her, corresponding with her and marking her birthday on Nov. 26. She kept many letters of Lily's from abroad, writing her a poem about 'Lily under alien skies'!



Lalitha Kale (Lily) at her home in Princeton. *Pic. right:* ***The newly married couple — Harish Chandra and Lily. The wedding picture is from their daughter Premala Chandra's article in the internet.***

Dr. Harish Chandra [1923-1983] was an Indian-American Mathematician, born in Kanpur. Roger Howe, in his biography of Harish, recounts that he was first to take up academics as a career in his family, his brilliance recognised even in his teens. Harish interacted with Sir C.V. Raman and Dr. Homi J. Bhabha. He studied with Mathematician Paul Dirac, considered the Founder of the Quantum Field Theory.

In Bangalore, Harish Chandra got to know the Kale family and Lily as a young girl. Charmed by the grown-up Lily, Harish proposed to her and their wedding was set for 28th December 1952 at Metropole Mysore.

It was a special day, not only because it was my close friend's wedding but also because it was at the stylish Metropole hotel. For the occasion, Lily had given me a seed pearl necklace of hers which I wore with a saree for the luncheon.

Metropole's dining room was glamorous with flowers everywhere and mirrors with ornate frames glittered on the walls. The chandeliers from the ceiling gave it a grand look and feel.

I remember Farrokh K. Irani and his wife Sheila, who had moved to Mysore in 1951 and had later set up Jawa motorcycle factory, were in attendance along with other stylish Mysore society folk. Luncheon was served, speeches made and toasts drunk in a happy ceremony.

The couple then moved to Princeton in the US where Dr. Harish Chandra, in an idyllic and supportive marriage with Lily, scripted his mathematical legacy to the world. Starting as a Theoretical Physicist, he became one of the greatest of modern Indian Mathematicians. He was awarded *Padma Bhushan* in 1977. He died in Princeton at the age of just 60 in October 1983, after a heart attack.

Their life story, illustrated with photos, has been written by their daughters, Premala Chandra and Devaki Chandra, in 'Bhavana,' Mathematics magazine published by Bhavana Trust.

I lost touch with Lily over the years. I called her in 2003 while I was in New York. She invited me to have lunch at her home in Princeton, a date I could not keep. She passed away in 2019, her memories as bright and vibrant as her personality.

Lily and her mother Hadasa Kale with their pet Zippy (Alsatian). Picture right shows 14-year-old Girija wearing Lily's necklace and saree for wedding lunch at Metropole.

BOOM...

Gunner Anthony Cruz recounts the tradition of 21-gun salute

By S. Kenneth Shishir

The tradition of firing cannons, initiated by the East India Company in the early 18th century with the 21-gun salute — the highest honour bestowed upon rulers or top-ranking officers — is still observed today.

This practice is a mark of reverence to the presiding deity of Mysuru, Goddess Sri Chamundeshwari, during the *Jumboo Savari* on Vijayadashami Day.

Executing the firing of the traditional cannons, housed in the Mysore Palace, demands both skill and courage.

The gunner, responsible for igniting the fuse and the staff from the City Armed Reserve (CAR) force endure the thunderous sound of these cannons. The cannons are used to perform a 21-round salute within a minute, with each cannon firing three rounds, from seven cannons totalling 21 rounds.

Among the esteemed gunners is **77-year-old Anthony Cruz,** a retired member of the CAR with a service record spanning over 39 years.

A resident of Raghavendranagar in Mysuru, Anthony Cruz joined the Dismounted Company (now City Armed Reserve) Police force in 1966 as a Constable. He retired on May 3, 2005, holding the rank of Head Constable.

Notably, Anthony was enlisted into the 'Pirangi Dal' (cannon firing squad) in 1996-97, where he served as a gunner for 28 years until 2004.

Gunner Anthony Cruz lighting miniature cannon to acclimatise Dasara elephants to the booming sound.

Anthony Cruz claimed that initially, the gunpowder for the cannons was sourced from London, and later, it was procured locally from Ballari and Arasikere in Hassan. Emphasising the importance of security, he noted that stringent 24x7 measures were in place to safeguard the gunpowder.

Highlighting the cannon inventory, Anthony mentioned the presence of three short-barrel and four long-barrel cannons. However, during Dasara, only three cannons were utilised to perform the 21-gun salute.

Anthony Cruz** (left) **with his colleague posing in front of a cannon at Mysore Palace during Dasara in 1996.

THE BOOM SOUND

Anthony recounted the tradition of firing 21 shots near Mysore Palace and an additional 21 rounds at the Torchlight Parade Grounds in Bannimantap. The cannons used near the Palace were then transported in the Dasara procession *(Jumboo Savari)* to Bannimantap, where another 21 shots were fired.

He reminisced about the heightened intensity of the cannon sounds during his tenure, stating that the current cannons produce sound levels almost three times lower. "My heart used to skip a beat to the booming sounds of the cannons as the intensity of the sound was almost triple than the sound produced by the cannons now."

In consideration of the safety of the staff during cannon firing, precautionary measures were taken. Two fire-resistant dungarees (dangri), typically worn by firefighters, were procured from Mandya and Hassan, as the Mysuru unit had only one. These measures aimed to mitigate the risk of accidental fires during the cannon firing ceremonies.

COMMUNICATION THROUGH FLAGS

During that era, due to absence of sufficient wireless equipment, communication was facilitated through use of flags, which were manoeuvred in various directions. Anthony recalled that 21 shots were fired in two minutes when the English Band played the National Anthem.

[Continued on Page - 62]

Rubbing shoulders with dashing Kabir Bedi

Anthony Cruz seized a unique opportunity to capture a photograph with the charismatic Kabir Bedi when the Bollywood actor visited Srirangapatna for the filming of the 1996 television series, 'The Return of Sandokan.' Anthony, along with fellow Police personnel, was assigned to provide security to the actor and the crew throughout the shooting period.

STAR OF MYSORE
ಕಳೆದ
47
STAR OF MYSORE
ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಪ್ರಪಂಚದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಹೆಸರುವಾಸಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಡಾ|| ಕೆ.ಬಿ. ಗಣಪತಿ
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The tradition of 21-gun salute

Anthony Cruz with his wife Mary Elizabeth, daughters Irudaya Mary and Sagaya Mary and grandson Rishawn Adriel Lobo.

[Continued from Page - 60]

Initially, the responsibility for the cannons rested with the Dismounted Company, which executed the firing during Dasara at Gun House. Subsequently, cannon firing operations moved from inside Mysore Palace premises to the area outside the Palace, which is now utilised as a parking lot.

Reflecting on a noteworthy incident, Anthony shared an experience when a 21-gun salute was halted midway. During the visit of the then President of India, Giani Zail Singh, a 21-gun salute was ordered in his honour. However, after firing 18 shots, the salute was abruptly stopped as the President expressed discomfort.

Anthony, who was also a sportsperson, boasted of winning numerous prizes in various sports meets, earning commendation from his senior officers.

NO HEALTH BENEFITS

Despite his fitness during his service, he now faces respiratory problems attributed to prolonged exposure to gunpowder smoke over his 28 years of cannon-firing duty. Anthony lamented the financial burden of medical treatment, as retired Policemen do not receive health benefits.

Additionally, Anthony served in the Special Task Force (STF) formed to apprehend the notorious sandalwood smuggler and poacher Veerappan.

Despite being recommended for the President's Medal eight times during his 39 years of service, Anthony expressed regret at not making it to the list, attributing it to a lack of recognition from the authorities.

Presently, he resides with his wife Mary Elizabeth and daughters Irudaya Mary and Sagaya Mary at Raghavendranagar in Mysuru.

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